Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-94-168 *30 August 1994*

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Aug

LD3008063994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0420 GMT 30 Aug 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 30 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's Russian newspapers concentrate on the complete pullout of Russian troops from Germany and events in the Chechen republic.

The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper notes that the Western Army Group, being pulled out of Germany, "was a factor of containment and stability over the long years of armed confrontation in Europe. It honestly fulfilled its historic mission to maintain peace on the continent".

The gist of the present event is, the newspaper writes, that "history gave a real chance to Russia and Germany to enter a world of new relations and to turn from long-standing confrontation of the former adversaries to good-neighbourly relations and cooperation".

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper writes the following on this event: "Apart from bringing peace to Europe, we defended it in the years of the Cold War. Completing this historic mission, we leave with a feeling of fulfilled duty.

"We leave with dignity even if nobody needs this, apart from us. If you have dignity, nobody will take it away of buy." [sentence as received]

The newspaper notes in another article that the pullout of troops is a historic event in some respect. However, the newspaper writes, alluding to facts of corruption in the Western Army Group, that "it could be marked without absurd pomposity".

The IZVESTIYA newspaper writes the following on the pullout of Russian troops from Germany and the Baltics: "The last Russian troops left Latvia and Estonia without a farewell ceremony, as will be the case in Germany.

"The finishing line was drawn under a whole epoch. May be, this is a duty of armed forces—to usher in and close epochs,—which is not written in military manuals. [no end quotation marks as as received]

Turning to the events in the Chechen republic, IZVESTIYA writes that Chechen President Dudayev is hatching up another propaganda canard against Moscow.

According to information from a source among Dudayev's close aides, the newspaper writes, "The president's comrades-in-arms in the Chechen capital Groznyy allegedly laid hands on documents, showing that 'the Russian Air Force' launder money in Chechnya.

"The source reports that the matter in question is a staggering sum of over 1,000 billion roubles sent by the Kremlin for subversive activities in the Chechen republic."

The Chechen president's office intends to describe in detail this fact to the mass media in Groznyy. "The aim is to whip up discontent among the Russian poor with 'silly actions by their authorities'," the newspaper stresses.

Former chemistry minister in the last Soviet government Salambek Khadzhiyev who now heads the Oil and Gas Research Institute in Groznyy, claimed in an interview with the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA that "there is every evidence of fascism in Chechnya".

Under the headline "squabbles among democrats clear the way for reactionaries to power", IZVESTIYA carries a letter by 13 prominent Russian men of culture, including author Andrey Bitov, film playwright Aleksey German, poet Bulat Akudzhava and actress Lidia Fedoseyeva-Shukshina.

"The events of the past year clearly showed that any struggle between democrats is now pernicious, and the idea of 'democratic opposition' is unsuitable due to its isolation from Russian realities of life.

"We need not opposition but a firm position rallying all democratic forces, a position common for all democrats, capable of opposing gradually growing forces of revenge which are uniting (in contrast to democrats) in most ideologically queer combinations," the letter says.

Specialists from the Arzamas-16 nuclear centre describe "riddles" and myths connected with thefts of plutonium and uranium in an interview with the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper.

Specialists said that "the ballyhoo with plutonium-239 found in the handbag of a passenger who arrived at a Munich airport from Russia, "is nothing but a provocation engineered by politicians and caught up by the press and a stenching propaganda action".

The PRAVDA newspaper prints a report about the session of the second congress of the Russian Young Communist League.

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Kozyrev Comments on Talks in Belgrade

On Bosnia Muslim Arms Embargo

LD2908181394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Belgrade August 29 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists after the talks with Moslem-Croat Federation leaders in Sarajevo on Monday that Russia is against an immediate lifting of arms embargo on Bosnian Moslems.

The TANJUG news agency quoted Kozyrev as saying that the lifting should be considered as a last resort for the world community if all other measures fail to bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Earlier today Kozyrev said Moscow is concerned about the invigoration of hostilities in the war zone. The Bosnian Serbs's refusal to accept the peace plan proposed by the Contact Group must not be used as a pretext for unilateral military buildup in the region, he said. The dialogue with the Serbs cannot be considered completed because last weekend's referendum produced a negative response to the international peace plan, he added.

Russian diplomats believe that the Moslem side should not be disillusioned by possible unilateral lifting of the U.N. arms embargo. The Moslem army will not have enough time to deploy new weapons and use them to gain strategic superiority, experts said.

On Western Support for Peace Efforts

LD2908121194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1001 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov, Yuriy Kozlov, and Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 29 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev intends to convince his Western contact group partners of the need to support Belgrade's new position with regard to the plan for a peaceful settlement of the Bosnian crisis. The minister told this to ITAR-TASS correspondents prior to his departure from the Yugoslav capital where he held long talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic Sunday evening.

The head of the Russian foreign policy department thinks that support for the "party of peace" against "the party of war" should be the cornerstone of the contact group's work "and everything else should be subordinate to this task."

Touching on the question of Yugoslavia's introduction on 4 August of a blockade on the border with the Serbian Republic in Bosnia, A. Kozyrev said that, in his opinion, "that was done in the interests of the entire Serbian people and these measures are being carried out firmly and will be carried out by Belgrade." "This intention and firmness by the leadership of Serbia and Yugoslavia outweigh the persistent desire to place some kind of 'superobservers' on the border. It is quite clear that this policy is being carried out by Belgrade in earnest," he stressed.

Speaking of the Bosnian Serb leadership's position which does not want to say a firm "yes" to the Contact Group's plan, A. Kozyrev drew attention to the fact that they constantly ask the same question about guarantees of the border of the Serb republic and about its recognition as an independent and sovereign state. "The situation here is clear, I think. If Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic accepts the peace plan, the stability of the envisioned borders will be guaranteed by the world community. If the Bosnian Serbs want to exchange any territories with their neighbors the borders may be changed only by agreement between the present warring sides. Moreover, 'a physical guarantee' is also provided for—the deployment of international observers on the internal Bosnian borders," the minister said.

"If the Bosnian Serbs say 'yes' to the peace plan, they will immediately have a border that is recognized by the international community, the statehood of the Serbian republic will be recognized, and they will be able to enter a confederation with Serbia or Yugoslavia there and then. This will serve as an additional guarantee of their security and rights, since the Bosnian Serbs will be in a confederation with a powerful neighbor," the Russian foreign minister believes.

In addition, A. Kozyrev said, Russia is prepared to discuss the possibility of a political agreement with Yugoslavia which will stipulate the security issues which would apply to the Republic of Serbia as part of the confederation. "This would mean that the Bosnian Serbs get a security guarantee from Russia as well," he said.

Kozyrev said that the referendum in the Serbian republic last Saturday and Sunday on the Contact Group's plan "could only be called a referendum in quotation marks" and that "the Serbian leadership felt the same way about it." He explained his view by saying that the plebiscite took place in conditions of war "with war hysteria being controlled by a press that is not giving the public the whole truth." The minister believes that the Bosnian Serb leaders want to bank on the expected negative response of the people in the referendum in order to "justify their unwillingness to take into account Serbian national interests." "These leaders are in effect trading off these national interests, probably fearing what free choices the people will make in peace time. They are leaders in war time, but when the war ends, the issue could arise of whether people will vote for them or not," he said.

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On Zagreb-Belgrade Relations

LD2908211194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2057 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Kozlov and Andrey Naryshkinl]

[Text] Zagreb August 30 TASS— "The main aim of my visit to former Yugoslavia was to bring the positions of the sides closer as regards the plan of the settlement of the Bosnian conflict suggested by the international Contact Group," said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev upon completion of his visit to Sarajevo.

On Monday morning, Kozyrev had talks in Sarajevo with the chairman of the Presidium of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alia Izetbegovic and the prime minister of the Bosnia Moslem and Croatian Federation, Haris Silajdzic.

The Russian minister expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks in Belgrade and Sarajevo. He said that definite progress had been achieved at the talks and main directions for further activities were outlined. However, Kozyrev did not specify what concrete political steps would be taken in the near future. He stressed the importance of coordinating efforts made by all international mediators while strengthening positive tendencies which appeared and giving support to the present political course of the Belgrade leadership which has made its choice in favour of peace.

In reply to a question asked by ITAR-TASS upon completion of the talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman if the normalisation of relations between Zagreb and Belgrade might be expected in the near future, Kozyrev said that he sees no unsurmountable obstacles to this.

Commenting on Russia's attitude to the deployment of international observers on the border between Yugoslavia and Serbian-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kozyrev said that he does not consider this problem to be the key question in the problem of Bosnian peace settlement." It is much more important now to give real support to those forces in Serbia which said "yes" to the peace plan suggested by international mediators," Kozyrev said.

Late on Monday Kozyrev left Zagreb for Berlin where he will have talks with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

On New Geneva Meeting on Bosnia

LD3008044794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0301 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Berlin, 30 Aug—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has come out with an initiative to hold in Geneva a fourth ministerial meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Such a meeting is necessary in order to "make an appropriate appraisal of the changes that have taken place in Yugoslavia and, most important, not to miss the chance of a settlement of the Bosnian conflict that is presented by the new situation". The head of the Russian diplomatic service stated this early this morning during an improvised news conference on the landing strip of the airfield of Sperenberg near Berlin, where he has arrived on completion of his two-day trip around the former Yugoslavia.

"There are very big reserves in the work with our Western partners," the minister noted. "In the contact group, the familiar political-bureaucratic inertia of the old approaches can be observed, and little flexibility is being displayed taking into account the newness of the situation. During the second and third ministerial meetings in Geneva, we only discussed the scenario in a general form, in accordance with which Belgrade would say yes and the Bosnian Serbs in Pale no to the international peace settlement plan. This option was not put on paper because in the opinion of our partners it was only hypothetically possible, but in practice unlikely. The Russian side did not at the time have any direct arguments in favor of such a development of events." But now, after the bold step of President Slobodan Milosevic and the Serbian leadership supporting the proposal of the contact group, the situation has changed and it is necessary to react to this, Kozyrev noted.

The head of the foreign policy department stressed that "Belgrade's political decisiveness should receive encouragement." At the same time, he noted, in the framework of the contact group two different approaches have taken shape. Russia's Western partners, noting the "unexpectedness" of the measures undertaken by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to end relations with the Bosnian Serbs because of their refusal to accept the peace settlement plan, insist on investigating the situation in detail and on sending international observers to the FRY. Moscow, however, is drawing from Belgrade's decision the conclusion that there is the need to rapidly reorganize and react to the decision in a positive way. "So far we have not managed to overcome these differences—these shades of difference in approach at a bureaucratic level—at the level of experts of the contact group," the Russian minister pointed out.

"I pin very great hopes on Boris Yeltsin's coming meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Fate decrees that the two most influential statesmen have the opportunity to discuss the situation in the former Yugoslavia precisely now when new circumstances have taken shape," Andrey Kozyrev announced.

Germany plays an active role in the contact group, far from the least role in a Yugoslav settlement overall, and it has considerable potential to influence the combatant sides, the head of the Russian diplomatic service noted. He emphasized that the Berlin meeting would be the first

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high-level contact of the leaders of "two states having special authority in former Yugoslavia" since Naples. In Kozyrev's opinion, the Russo-German summit "should clear up a great deal and lead to a further rapprochement of positions."

Last Troops Leave Estonia Ahead of Schedule

LD2908141194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Russian troops have left Estonia, two days earlier than scheduled. The last trainload of equipment and military property left for Yelnya (82 km from Smolensk), where the units of the Motorized Rifle Division will be stationed.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed in the Land Forces press center that the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic states is proceeding in an organized manner, with no special ceremonies, and in an atmosphere of calm. The military camps and testing grounds are being handed over to the local authorities. All installations of the 144th Motorized Rifle Division and the buildings complex of the naval base headquarters in Tallinn have been handed over and are at Estonia's disposal.

Festivities to mark the "effective end of World War II and the occupation" will be held 31 August in the Estonian capital and in a number of other towns. Local military experts report that plans are being drawn up in the republic for Russia to compensate for the "ecological damage" caused by the troops' stay in Estonia.

Deputy Minister on Troop Withdrawal Pact

MM2908135594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov by Gennadiy Charodeyev; place, date not given: "Who Will Give the Estonians a Helping Hand if They Deceive Pensioners? Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov Answers IZVESTIYA's Questions"]

[Text] President Yeltsin should not have signed the agreements on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia, Russian-language newspapers in the Baltic countries state. Moscow is withdrawing its soldiers, but thousands of Russian pensioners will be left without support or protection, despite Tallinn's promises.

[Krylov] The Russian military pensioners, members of their families, and those who have lost the family breadwinner are to receive a residence permit for the Republic of Estonia in accordance with the treaty signed in Moscow. Admittedly, the same article [of the agreement] also allows the possibility of a refusal to grant a residence permit. But I would stress especially that this can only be done by a special, validated decision of the Estonian Government. The only grounds for refusing a residence permit are if there is a threat to the security of the Estonian state.

We proceed from the premise that a threat to state security can only stem from the activity of a given individual at the present time, and furthermore it must be proven, of course. It is our conviction that past service in the Soviet or Russian Army, including in the organs of the KGB or the Main Intelligence Directorate, which were legal organizations and carried out their activity on the basis of laws which operated on Estonian territory at that time, cannot be viewed as a threat to that country's security now. Representatives of the CSCE will be involved in the Estonian Government's examination of each such instance. In any event we will campaign on each person's behalf.

The agreement on pensioners envisages that they will retain their civil, political, economic, and cultural rights and freedoms. It enshrines Estonia's commitments regarding the use of housing and the right to regard military and equivalent service as work experience when it comes to the privatization of housing. Questions relating to medical services have been settled.

In short, we are convinced that the agreements signed in Moscow will make it possible to complete the withdrawal of our troops from Estonia in a dignified manner and create reliable guarantees for the vast majority of Russian military pensioners living in that country. We are no less convinced that in the long term this is also in Estonia's interests because it removes one of the main bones of contention in our mutual relations.

[Charodeyev] In Tallinn they are saying that President Meri did not have the right to sign these documents, whose texts only exist in Russian-language versions.

[Krylov] The legal validity of President Meri's signature is not questioned here. In accordance with Estonian legislation it is the head of state who represents the public in international relations and has the right to sign international treaties.

Coordination work on the document was conducted in Russian. There was neither the time nor the opportunity to translate the text into Estonian immediately and print it as a treaty. Now there is an Estonian text and it is being sent for signature to the Russian president. There are plenty of precedents in international practice where treaties have been signed in one language and subsequently translated into other languages.

I am convinced that the talk about the "legality of the signature" and the absence of Estonian texts conceals something more serious—the discontent of those who are opposed to the normalization of Russian-Estonian relations.

[Charodeyev] Just a few days remain until the completion of our troop withdrawal from Estonia. The agreements signed in Moscow have not been ratified by the

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Estonian parliament yet. Will the troop withdrawal be completed before ratification?

[Krylov] The documents signed in Moscow have not been presented for ratification to either the Estonian parliament or the Russian parliament for one simple reason—the deputies are on vacation. What matters, however, is that the accord between the presidents enshrined in the texts—namely, that both documents exist from the moment of their signing—is operating. We operate from that premise when fulfilling our part of the commitments. It is senseless to delay the troop withdrawal.

[Charodeyev] What will happen if the Estonian parliament refuses to ratify these documents after the withdrawal of our troops? After all, Estonia will have achieved its aim. There will be no more troops....

[Krylov] We do not believe that the Estonians will stand before the whole world as unreliable partners. Who will want to have dealings with them after that? Foreign Minister Juri Luik has assured us that Estonia will honor its commitments and the agreements will be ratified.

Our Western partners have not tired of reminding us of the need to withdraw the Russian troops from the Baltic countries. If the agreement on military pensioners is violated they will have to protect their rights just as consistently and determinedly.

Kozyrev on German Pullout 'Historical Epoch'

LD3008085794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0817 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Berlin August 30 TASS—"The pull-out of Russian troops from Germany marks the summation of the results of a whole historical epoch, linked with the Second World War and the heroic feat of the Soviet people, who made a decisive contribution to the victory over fascism. Unfortunately, this epoch was also linked with the dark period of the 'cold war'," ITAR-TASS was told by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev upon his arrival tonight at Sperenberg military airport near Berlin. The Russian foreign minister will take part in functions linked with the send-off of Russian troops from Germany.

"As a matter of fact," the minister added, "the history of our relations with Germany also includes quite a few bright pages, which are an earnest [as received] of the future positive development of our bilateral relations. I don't share at all the fears that Germany will lose interest in Russia after the pull-out or vice- versa," he stated. "This will not happen, because these are two major European states, without the interaction of which it is impossible to ensure the further political and economic development of the continent. Moreover, both states are connected by close economic ties and cultural roots."

"The set of measures, linked with the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany," Kozyrev noted, "are not directed into the past, but rather into the future." In his opinion, the leaders of the two states were able to find for this purpose a very successful, worthy and weighty form, which became possible largely due to their personal mutual understanding and liking. "As a matter of fact, we are witnessing a rare case when state interests are being implemented on a new basis. It deserves to be mentioned in memoirs and text-books on history and diplomacy," Kozyrev added.

Arrives in Germany, Comments on Plutonium

LD3008034294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0210 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Berlin, 30 Aug—Questions connected with the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and the physical protection of nuclear materials comprise one of the priority areas of Russia's foreign policy. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on his arrival early this morning at Sperenberg military airfield near Berlin. The head of the Russian diplomatic service, who yesterday completed a working visit to Yugoslavia, is to take part in the ceremony of the departure of Russian troops from Germany.

"We, like no-one else," the minister said, "are interested in very tight control in this respect, because it is precisely along the perimeter of our borders that those who potentially aspire to possess nuclear weapons are located." He said that around Germany or in the vicinity of the United States there were no states that were not members of the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons or that might tomorrow provide themselves with such weapons, while such states could easily be found on the map by the exterior borders of the CIS. Therefore, for Russia the question of control of nuclear materials is much more acute than for its Western partners, he stressed.

Going on to mention the recent incident connected with the seizure in Germany of a contraband consignment of radioactive uranium and plutonium, Kozyrev noted that after the talks in Moscow between representative delegations of Russia and Germany, the "hullabaloo with an anti-Russian tinge" raised in some of the media had finally lost its justification. Now, he added, with the help of the departments concerned, the main task consists of doing everything to develop "the cooperation of the relevant experts in thwarting and exposing" incidents of leakage of radioactive materials into channels of illicit trafficking. "Theoretically, this could happen in any nuclear state, but that is no reason to start any kind of propaganda campaign against this state," the Russian minister pointed out. Such incidents, in his opinion, only stress the need to unite efforts and take preventive and corrective measures.

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Germany Pullout, Yeltsin Program Viewed

MM3008090794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Batygin under the "Topic of the Day" rubric: "Grab Your Coat and Let's Go Home. Russian Troops' Ceremonial Send-Off To Be Held in Berlin Tomorrow"]

[Excerpts] Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, the last commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces [WGF], will report to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl 31 August on Berlin's Gendarmenmarkt Square on the completion of the Russian troop withdrawal.

In accordance with international and bilateral accords the WGF will cease to exist—the WGF which was one of the factors for deterrence and stability during the long years of armed confrontation in Europe, honorably performing its historic mission of keeping peace on the continent.

According to the protocol the general has been given two minutes for his report. How is he to squeeze the history of the WGF, which dates back to victorious May 1945, into that time? [passage omitted]

An unprecedented operation in world practice to redeploy a 500,000-strong grouping with all its armaments has been under way for four years now since the unification of Germany and the signing of the Treaty Between the FRG and the USSR on the Terms for the Temporary Stationingn and Systematic Withdrawal of Soviet Troops of 12 October 1990.

It is a good thing that we are leaving, it is high time. From the viewpoint of common human proprieties we should have left earlier without waiting for the hosts to start irritably looking at their guests and at the door. Try to imagine coming face to face every day—on the street, in the train, at the store—with foreigners in foreign military uniform speaking a foreign language. I have first-hand knowledge of a soldier's life in Germany, I spent three years there.

There is a hint of bitterness behind the upbeat tone of the current celebrations. The shortsightedness and often irresponsibility of the policy pursued by the former Soviet leaders, primarily Mikhail Gorbachev and Eduard Shevardnadze (it was they who signed the 1990 Treaty), led to a situation where many formations leaving comfortable, well-equipped garrisons in Germany arrived at a empty place in Russia where no one was effectively expecting them. The German Government has indeed earmarked 7.8 billion Marks for the construction of housing for the servicemen returning home. However there are still another 25,000 families without homes.

Deadlines are always tight in our country. The rate of the troop withdrawal and the creation of normal billeting conditions for them clearly did not coincide. We would point out that the Americans scheduled seven years for the withdrawal of their troops from Germany while the French are pulling out 10,000 a year. Yet we have withdrawn 500,000 in four years! This is not an organized withdrawal, it is more of a flight....

Nevertheless, according to official Bonn, the schedule for the return of the troops and equipment from Germany has been kept to with staggering precision.

Notwithstanding all the complexities arising from major and minor problems that have been not been fully resolved we will try to rise above the grievances and see the main thing about the current event: History has given Russia and Germany a real opportunity to enter a world of new relations, move on from the years-long confrontation and enmity of former adversaries to good-neighborliness and cooperation.

However, various views are being aired at home and abroad regarding the Russian troop withdrawal. I even heard fears that with their "hands untied" the Germans would now start speaking a different, harsher language to Russia. Chancellor Kohl dispelled these doubts by pointing out that the Germans and Russians have learned the lessons of history and therefore the friendly relations between our two countries will not be reversed. God forbid, so to speak!

Finally a word about the program for the Russian leader's trip. It is utterly packed: This evening Boris Yeltsin flies to Berlin and the next day, Wednesday [31 August], he is scheduled to meet with Helmut Kohl. After that the two heads of state will deliver speeches at one of Berlin's largest auditoriums, the Schauspielhaus. The program for the Russian Federation president's visit includes laying wreathes at the memorial to the Russian troops in the Tiergarten and at the Neue Wache memorial to the victims of war and violence.

A tremendous cultural program is devoted to the events linked with the end of the WGF withdrawal from Germany. But the men of the Berlin brigade have no time left for merrymaking: On the morning of 1 September they will be loaded into trains and a solemn reception awaits them at Moscow's Belorusskiy Station 3 September.

But a last Russian soldier liberator will remain in Berlin's Treptow-Park with the German girl he has rescued in his arms.

Postwithdrawal 'German Lessons' Pondered

MM3008085794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 2

[Article by Vadim Markushin under the "Topic of the Week" rubric: "We Are Leaving Germany, but 'German Lessons' Still Have To Be Analyzed"]

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[Text] So the end of August, so long-awaited by people in Germany, has arrived. At first they felt some mistrust and vague alarm—is that which looked easy on paper feasible? Then their confidence grew as the Russian troops adhered to the withdrawal schedule with impeccable precision. And finally, there came full awareness of the irreversibility of the final send-off ceremony 31 August, which might even have been the reason for the well-known "vagaries" on Bonn's part regarding the procedure for and location of the farewell ceremony.

In order to comprehend the Germans' current state of mind you have to try at least to put yourself in their place. In other words, imagine a picture that would be fantastic for us, namely foreign staffs and battalions leaving Russian cities and villages after being billeted there for 50 years. In front of people who have lived to see their grandchildren but who have not known any other life than proximity to foreign troops' barracks.

This was enforced, uncomfortable proximity despite all the typically good relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Soviet (then Russian) garrisons and the local organs of power and public organs. This proximity was brought about by the military presence of a foreign power. It represented the people's inevitable payment for the evil perpetrated by the nazis. And today, having lived through the shame of perpetrating the worst bloodshed in history and acquiring a new role in the international community, reunited Germany is clearly aware of the historical significance of the Russian troops' withdrawal.

After all, even with the very broad partnership between the Russian Army and the combined NATO forces in Europe, the inertia of the former military confrontation would have made itself felt. And only the elimination of the opposing groupings on both sides of the albeit invisible but nonetheless implied intra-German border enshrined the end of a postwar era full of antagonism and suspicion. Provided, of course, that you ignore the continuing presence in Germany of U.S. and other NATO units. Admittedly, as the members of the Atlantic club try to persuade us in unison, their work here is strictly internal.

That may indeed be the case. Time has after all overturned many former concepts. The Soviet Army marched with its allies in the anti-Hitler coalition into defeated Germany. The Russian Army has not merely left the FRG, it has left the territory of the European Union [EU]. At times we simply do not think about the depth of the West European integration that is taking place. However this is the real embodiment of the idea of the United States of Europe that arose at the beginning of the century. Consequently there is nothing particularly unnatural about the presence of mixed military structures or about units and establishments being preserved on German territory. But for the fact that the Americans are not members of the EU....

The period of "German guard duty" has also had its effect on us. In half a century millions of our compatriots have served on German soil. These were not shopping sprees to China or Turkey. People came here for years and encountered an almost unknown way of life every day. Over the last few years there has been a particular purpose in their coming. Since literally before our eyes the former GDR, covered in scaffolding, acquired the hitherto uncharacteristic features of a gigantic pan-European market, with superhighways, superstores, and supercommunications. And all this was on the other hand accompanied by minifarms and miniproduction units that rapidly sprang up.

Our military's craving to learn something to their advantage met with an unfailing countermovement from local firms and specialists and incentives were provided by the federal treasury. Dozens of courses of all kinds began to run at garrisons for Western Group of Forces servicemen and their family members. They studied topical issues, namely marketing, insurance, computing, the fundamental principles of environmental conservation. And German of course. That indispensable "tool" for business communications.

What is more, extremely active familiarization with the country's customs and institutions was organized at federal and Land level. Norbert Schaefer, one of the staunchest and most consistent champions of German-Russian rapprochement on a human level, said: "I see every Russian who has assimilated just a grain of German experience as our ally in strengthening ties with Russia." Knowing this exceptional, energetic man well as I do, I can add that I always sensed genuine concern on his part when there was the slightest strain in German-Russian relations.

The fact that repositories of the German (or West European) idea want to spread it to Russia and bring some Western uniformity to the Eurasian way of life is hardly the point here. It is more the case of being able to discern, amid the obscure atmosphere of Russia's current difficulties, the rising giant, a whole civilization which cannot be refashioned in accordance with some model but with which it is necessary to build up all the kinds of communications known to the world in order not to merit our descendants' reproaches for being historically slovenly.

For the Germans the Russians are incidentally still a kind of psychological opposite in which there is natural interest. In the customs and behavior of their eternal rivals and eternal partners they find something that they themselves may be lacking. When observing the Russians' departure, for instance, Germans have frequently noticed the undemanding nature of the Russian national character, the willingness to give up a well-ordered life and travel to nowhere without delay. Many of them have been simply stunned by the rate at which troop units have been redeployed to places unprepared for normal living.

However, because of all this, the miscalculations and our naive hope of the withdrawal scenario being adjusted "in

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due course," a scenario produced from on high under pressure of a "political decision," looked trite to the Germans. Once again things were complicated by the "sudden" surprises that lay in store for the participants in the unprecedented march. The Poles and Czechs put obstacles in their path and forced them to hastily take the sea route. The Germans themselves stunned them with complaints about the environmental damage sustained and so it became necessary to give up the billions in compensation for the real estate left behind. Contract construction workers adjusted the deadlines for the commissioning of housing for the units being withdrawn.

Nevertheless the movement has effectively been uninterrupted. It is now being completed. The Western Group of Forces is making the last entries in the pages of its history. This is our common history. And we will have things to look back on. We have the "German lessons" to ponder.

Federal Border Service Appeals to Tajik Opposition

LD3008095794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0835 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federal Border Service (FBS) called on the Tajik opposition to stop all hostilities and start a peace dialogue. This message is contained in an FBS statement received today by ITAR-TASS. "We are not at war with the opposition, nor do we interfere in the republic's internal affairs," the document says. "Clearly understanding our rights and responsibilities, we are prepared to accept the choice of the Tajik people as law. But the choice must be made not through force of arms, not through the blood of the Tajiks and the Russians who are carrying out their military duty on the border, but legitimately, by way of dialogue and constructive political decisions."

The FBS recalls in its statement that the Russian border troops are guarding the border at the wish of the CIS countries, expressed in a number of agreements between the heads of states signed in Moscow, Minsk, and Bishkek. The collective peacekeeping forces were set up to stabilize the situation. The Tajik-Afghan border is being guarded by servicemen of 30 different nationalities. Ethnic Tajiks account for more than 50 percent of the Russian border troops [in the region].

PRC's Jiang Zemin Confident in Future

LD3008084894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0800 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Marat Abulkhatin, Georgiy Arslanov and Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[Text] Beijing August 30 TASS—"I think that relations between China and Russia in political, trade, economic, scientific, technical, educational and cultural spheres have been successfully developing over the past three years, especially, after Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to our country at the end of 1992," said Jiang Zemin, chairman of China [as received] and general-secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, replying to a question by ITAR-TASS, during an interview with Russian journalists on the eve of his visit to Moscow at his Beijing residency.

Characterizing the current state of bilateral relations, Jiang Zemin noted with satisfaction private high level contacts. According to him, the border talks have given positive results, and a significant progress has also been made at talks on the reduction of armed forces on the Chinese-Russian border.

Trade and economic ties have been broadening especially successfully of late. The trade turnover exceeded the maximum level achieved during Chinese-Soviet trade over the past two years, the Chinese chairman said. "The peoples of our countries are interested in the successful development of our bilateral relations," he emphasised.

In a few days I will visit your wonderful country on the invitation of President Boris Yeltsin, the Chinese leader added. Together with the Russian president and other Russian leaders, I will discuss issues regarding ways of building Chinese-Russian goodneighbourly and friendly relations, and mutually beneficial cooperation with the XXI Century in the view, Jiang Zemin said. "I am confident that my visit to Russia will help ensure a more wonderful future of Chinese-Russian relations," the Chinese chairman said.

Yeltsin Interviewed on Ties With China

LD3008095494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0752 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Beijing August 30 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin granted an interview to the Chinese XINHUA news agency on Tuesday in connection with Chinese chairman Jiang Zemin's forthcoming visit to Russia on September 2-6, 1994.

Following is the text of the interview as released by the XINHUA news agency:

Question: Chinese chairman Jiang Zemin will soon arrive in Moscow on an official visit. This will be a new summit meeting since your visit to China in 1992. How do you assess the forthcoming visit and what do you expect from it?

Answer: Russia welcomes the continuation of friendly relations with China including on the highest level. Relations between the two countries can be characterised as good-neighbourly and constructive. The upcoming summit meeting between the leaders of Russia and China, both U.N. Security Council permanent members, will facilitate their development and will undoubtedly an international landmark event.

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We expect the Chinese chairman's visit to give a new impetus to the development of relations established in the recent past. I hope our talks will be permeated by a willingness to develop mutually beneficial business cooperation.

Question: After your visit to Beijing in 1992 friendly relations with China and Russia have invigorated. What plans do you have to make our good-neighborly relations stronger and more stable?

Answer: Relations between our two countries are based on the Russian-Chinese declaration of December 18, 1992. The course towards constructive partnership in bilateral relations and international affairs meets the interests of both nations, and is an important factor in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the whole world.

The talks in Moscow will also deal with a wide range of issues concerning bilateral relations and international problems. The sides plan to sign a joint declaration to lay down the major guidelines for the development of Russian-Chinese relations in the future, as well as an agreement on the western section of the Russian-Chinese state border, an agreement on re-targeting strategic nuclear missiles and other bilateral documents.

Answer: [as received] Economic ties between our countries must be raised to a new level. Border trade accounts for about one third of bilateral trade turnover. This is natural and logical for the countries which have the world's longest border. Moreover, the Russian Far East and the northeast of China form a unique zone which opens up great opportunities for various forms of economic cooperation.

However, the initial stage of the development of such relations which was characterised by a lack of organisation, chaos and primitiveness, is drawing to an end. On the agenda is a transition to more modern forms of cooperation—industrial and investment cooperation. We will do our best to support this process.

We must not turn the blind eye to the new problems. I mean in particular a recent increase in the number of violations of passport and visa regulations by both Russian and Chinese citizens. I consider this as a problem caused by growth. But it must not be neglected. We should not discourage normal contacts between citizens, including in the commercial sphere. At the same time, we must take measures, including on a bilateral basis, to make them civilised and manageable.

Question: Chinese readers are anxious to learn about the situation in Russia. Could you tell them about the political and economic situation in your country?

Answer: With the adoption of the new constitution in 1993 Russia has entered a new stage of organisation of social and political life. The role of the president as a guardian of the constitutional system, peace and stability in the country has grown considerably. For the first time the Federal Assembly, a real two-house legislative body, has been elected on a democratic basis. The democratic principle of power sharing is being gradually put in place.

The real success of the young Russian democracy was the signing of the civic accord treaty. This document was signed by the majority of political parties and movements, trade unions, political leaders, the president, the government and the both houses of the Federal Assembly. It has created the necessary conditions for establishing in Russia a new political culture and new political traditions based on tolerance for opposite views and the ability to develop a constructive dialogue between various societal forces.

As for our economy, its state shows that we are going through the hardest peak of reform. We have managed to keep the country from chaos and desorganisation, to stabilised inflation and prevent mass unemployment. Disintegrating processes inside the country have been stopped.

I am confident that the new social and economic situation in Russia will make it a stable and reliable partner, cooperation with whom would benefit all sides.

Question: How do you assess Russia's role in international affairs?

Answer: Like other U.N. Security Council permanent members Russia bears special responsibility for maintaining peace in the world. The steps taken by Russia in the CIS, the Balkans and other trouble spots across the world should be assessed from this point of view. Our role is determined by the principles of international law laid out in the U.N. Charter and other fundamental international documents. Russia's national interests fully meet the generally recognised standards of cooperation adopted in civilised countries.

Trade Turnover With PRC To Grow Slowly

LD3008100994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0836 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 30 BUSINESS-TASS—There is every objective possibility for increasing the volume of Russian-Chinese trade and economic cooperation by 1.5-2 times from today's level by the year 2000, Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov said in an interview with BUSINESS-TASS.

Turnover between Russia and China steadily grew over the past few years. In 1993, it increased by 31 percent from the preceding year to 7.7 billion dollars, making China Russia's second biggest trade partner after Federal Germany. At the same time, Russia ranks only seventh in China's foreign trade turnover.

The first half of this year, however, provided grounds for anxiety as the volume showed signs of diminishing, even though the tendency is temporary, the Russian minister said. He expressed the hope that the volume of trade will

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grow in the perspective, although not at the same high pace as over the past two years.

He said there were several reasons for this, one being the growth of prices of most raw materials on Russia's domestic markets. Export and import duties are also growing, and the Russian market is being satiated with Chinese goods. Russia is introducing measures to certify products and control "shuttle" trading.

A characteristic feature of our trade relations in recent years is a considerable drop in the share of deliveries under interstate obligations, while the decentralised trade exchanges, including cross-border trading have been on the increase.

Nonetheless assistance in building and reconstructing projects on Chinese territory remains one of the major directions of bilateral cooperation. At present, Russian organisations are working on seventeen projects, including nine in the electricity and energy sectors. The total value of Russian equipment to be delivered to China from 1994 to 2000 is expected to exceed five billion dollars.

Transportation services remain an acute problem in bilateral trade and economic relations, according to the minister. Because of this problem, 25-30 percent of all the signed contracts remain unfulfilled, the minister said.

Another weakling in bilateral economic relations is the provision of information services. The business circles in both countries feel shortages of reliable data about potential partners, the situation on the market, the investment regime and regulation of foreign trade activity.

Iraqi Foreign Ministry Official Visits for 'Coordination'

JN2908122994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 29 Aug (INA)—Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, has held detailed discussions with his Russian counterpart, Boris Kolokolov, at the Russian Foreign Ministry. The talks covered bilateral relations and coordinating positions with regard to joint moves at the Security Council in the next review session of the economic blockade scheduled for 14 September.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary told an INA correspondent in Moscow today that he had briefed his Russian counterpart on Iraq's implementation of Security Council resolutions, especially regarding finishing all technical arrangements to start the future monitoring. He pointed out that the Russian side received this information with satisfaction, deeming this a positive step toward implementing Security Council resolutions.

Riyad al-Qaysi said the talks were conducted in an extremely cordial atmosphere. He said agreement was reached on the practical outlines to act jointly and coordinate stands during the next review session. He said the Russian side had briefed him on Russia's efforts with the Security Council member states to lift the unfair economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Al-Qaysi said during his talks with Russian officials, he had sensed a true desire in favor of lifting the economic blockade, now that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

Al-Qaysi said his current visit to Moscow is in accordance with an agreement reached during his talks with Russian officials early this month, under which the two sides agreed to continue coordination and joint action.

The talks were attended for the Iraqi side by the Iraqi ambassador to Russia and for the Russian side by a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry's Middle East, North Africa, and International Organizations Departments.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary arrived in Moscow last Friday [26 August] on a visit to the Russian capital as part of Iraq's diplomatic drive that aims at coordinating with the Security Council member states toward lifting the economic blockade.

Communists Protest Joint U.S. Military Exercise

LD2908173094 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Supporters of the Communist and patriotic organizations are holding a rally at this moment in a little square in front of the entrance to Gorkiy Park. The participants in the rally, who are sparse, are against the joint Russian-American exercise at the Totskoye testing range. Here is our correspondent Dmitriy Solopov:

[Solopov] People carrying red flags began to gather in the square near Gorkiy Park toward 1700. By 1800 it became clear that the protest rally against the Totskoye military exercise would actually take place. At 1830, people started to speak from the rostrum. A passer-by could see the assortment of placards typical of the Workers' Russia rallies, ranging from: Yankees, Out of Russia! to Long Live the Soviet Union!

There were about 300 people in the square—the militia evidently expected more since there was a bus full of militiamen on the scene. People in the crowd were extremely aggressive and used foul language, but failed to give a clear explanation how a staff exercise at the Totskoye testing range could threaten Russia's security. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Apart from the State Duma and various nationalist and Communist organizations, the legislature in Orenburg oblast has also spoken against the exercise. The latter fears that some weapons hazardous to local residents may be used at the testing range. I will remind you that it was on the Totskoye military range that the

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first military exercise in the USSR with the use of nuclear weapons was carried out in 1954.

Serious concern about the exercise has also been expressed by the United States. A high-ranking U.S. diplomat spoke to a group of correspondents in Moscow today.

[Dmitriy Khitarov, Moscow Echo Information Service] The diplomat said he was surprised by the sharp public reaction to the forthcoming maneuvers. As a matter of fact, this is not the first occasion when the two countries have cooperated in the military sphere. [passage omitted] According to the U.S. diplomat, events of this kind should be held under the aegis of the United Nations or the CSCE, and the Russian Defense Ministry ought to make their peacemaking nature more clear. At any rate, a previous visit to America by the Russian military did not cause any public outbursts. Incidentally, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry will pay an official visit to Moscow during the joint staff exercise in Totskoye.

Parties Issue Statement on Maneuvers

MM2908133594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 1

[Joint statement by "Group of Political Parties and Organizations of Russia": "Surging Into Orenburg"]

[Text] The Pentagon recently announced that Russian-U.S. joint maneuvers "to rehearse cooperation in peacemaking operations" will be held at the Totskoye test range in Orenburg Oblast at the beginning of September this year.

The natural question is: Will these maneuvers help to strengthen Russia's defense capability, or is this just another step on the path of transforming the Russian Army into an adjunct of NATO?

The United States should be no under no illusions, however. The protest campaign in Orenburg Oblast and in Russia as a whole shows that, instead of strengthening "strategic partnership," these maneuvers could merely lead to an intensification of anti-American feeling in our country.

It is well known that for the United States the practically disarmed and demoralized Russian Army remains enemy number one. The U.S. military budget still envisages the creation of new armaments. A step is now being taken toward the outright subordination of the Russian Army to the Pentagon.

Armed intervention can be overt, as in the case of Vietnam, Iraq, or Somalia, or it can be creeping, as is happening in Yugoslavia and is being prepared in Russia. In the U.S. interpretation, peacemaking operations have been turned into a propaganda cover for aggression and international banditry.

In what region of the world might joint "peacemaking operations" by Russian and U.S. troops be carried out? First and foremost in Russia itself, where the situation is increasingly characterized by instability.

The "maneuvers" which have been foisted on Russia threaten to violate its national sovereignty. We condemn the decision of the Russian Government and the United States to hold the joint military maneuvers as incompatible with Russia's national interests and we demand their cancellation.

The statement is signed by: the Russian All-National Union, the Union of the Russian People, the "Den" movement, the People's Freedom Party-NTs [expansion unknown], the mothers movement, the Russian Christian Democratic Movement, the Committee To Help the Victims of the Events of 3-4 October 1993, the "Rebirth" Liberal Patriotic Party, the Union of Russian Patriots, the "Scientists in Defense of Russian Science" Committee, the Federation of Communists of Academic, Scientific, and Creative Organizations, and others.

Zhirinovskiy Party Seeks To Sell Paper in U.S.

LD2908155194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia intends to circulate its newspaper SLOVO ZHIRINOVSKOVO (Zhirinovskiy's Word) in the U.S.. State Duma Labor and Welfare Committee Chairman Sergey Kalashnikov, a party member, is said by Lev Kurin, his aide, to have been authorized to register the paper and sign an agreement on its publication. Kalashnikov is now in the U.S. with a Russian parliamentary delegation.

The newspaper is to be published in English while its main target audience would be Russian Americans. Kalashnikov said that the founders of the newspaper expect their venture to be a success and plan to sell it on all continents.

Siberian Nuclear Physics Institute Budget Hit by U.S. Move

LD2908133294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1238 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Yelmakov]

[Text] Novosibirsk August 29 TASS—A financial "hole" has formed in the budget of the Siberian Nuclear Physics Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, due to the fact that America withdrew some orders when it cancelled its plans to build a super- collider.

The institute was supposed to take part in creating the super- collider, for which it would have gotten 2.5 million dollars this year. Instead, it got only 800 thousand, and the institute has had to frantically search for new projects to compensate for the financial loss.

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The Russian Nuclear Physics Institute was able to prepare some cost-cutting and more effective proposals concerning the construction of the super-collider, which earned it a place on the project team, according to an interview with Academy of Sciences corresponding member Nikolay Dikanskiy, published in the "SCIENCE IN SIBERIA" weekly. The prototypes for several parts of the collider had already been constructed, he said.

Commenting on the general situation with super-collider building in the world, considering the failure of the U.S. programme, Dikanskiy noted that America and Russia are losing their lead in that area. The center of research in high-energy physics is moving to Western Europe, he said. Western Europe is already considering building a very powerful collider in Geneva with the participation of 18 countries.

Deputy Defense Minister on Black Sea Fleet Issues

LD2908164894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 29 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] Ukrainian parliament speaker Aleksandr Moroz's proposal on passing all of the Black Sea Fleet's ships to Russia without any compensation and on retaining the coastal infrastructure for Ukraine suggests that he was not informed of the details of the talks between the state delegations, Russia's Deputy Defense Minister Sergey Krylov told Interfax.

Commenting on Moroz's belief that the problems of the Black Sea Fleet must be tackled in the context of the entire Black Sea Region, involving Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia, he said that this position was even more strange.

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Political Issues

FCS To Sue Newspaper for 'Sensational' Report

LD3008101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) plans to sue the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS newspaper in court. In an article headlined "Uranium Mafia Penetrates Counterintelligence", the newspaper carries "sensational" information in its Tuesday's issue that two counterintelligence officers were detained in downtown Moscow for peddling uranium last Wednesday.

Calling this report as untrue, the FCS public relations centre told ITAR-TASS that in real fact a group of people trading in radioactive materials was arrested. However, they have nothing to do with counterintelligence.

The counterintelligence service regards information published by MOSKOVSKY KOMSOMOLETS as a deliberate provocation on the eve of a meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Germany.

The press service of the counterintelligence agency is sure that it will win the suit against the newspaper, which will be forwarded to court in recent future.

Sobchak Would Back Yeltsin For Another Term

MM2608133594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Anatoliy Sobchak, mayor of St. Petersburg and cochairman of Public Chamber under the Russian Federation president, by Pavel Anokhin under the "Politics" rubric; place and date not given: "Ideas That Will Unite Us. Rejection of National Communism; the Struggle Against Fascism; the Struggle Against Nationalism, Separatism, and Attempts To Divide Up the Country—This Could Become the Basis for the Consolidation of All Democratic Forces"]

[Text] Anatoliy Sobchak, mayor of St. Petersburg and cochairman of the Public Chamber under the Russian Federation president, voiced his opinion of the upcoming presidential election in conversation with ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent.

[Anokhin] Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, although the Russian presidential election is not just around the corner, it is not that far off either. The democrats have started speaking of the need to advance a single candidacy. Yegor Gaydar, for example, declared recently that the democratic forces must unite around Boris Yeltsin on the threshold of the election. How do you view such a proposal.

[Sobchak] Unequivocally. I am in favor of the democratic forces uniting around the president of Russia. He is a worthy figure. It is another matter that Boris Nikolayevich must decide whether he will participate in the next presidential election. This is necessary to ensure that future unity does not prove fruitless. For, if we start uniting today around Boris Nikolayevich, but he says at some time on the eve of the election that he is withdrawing his candidacy and does not intend to run for a second term, then this will do very great harm to the democratic movement. Therefore the president of Russia, as the undisputed leader of the democratic movement, must determine his position above all. This is the first point. Second, I believe that we are now capable of uniting "against" rather than "for." At present there are no grounds for uniting in resolving the problem "for." For example, neither Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, who does not hide his intention to advance his candidacy for the post of president, nor certain other politicians of a democratic tendency will unite around the figure of Boris Yeltsin. It is necessary to proceed from what is obvious.

But there is a platform around which we can all unite—it is rejection of national communism, the struggle against fascism, and the struggle against all attempts to divide the country and against nationalism and separatism. It is, above all, the struggle for a rule-of-law state.... This can be a broader and stronger base for unification. Afterward it will be easier for us to determine our position and to coordinate whom to vote for. Today, in my view, the unification of the democratic forces must be based not on personalities but on the ideas and principles for which it is necessary to struggle.

[Anokhin] Since we have mentioned the rule-of-law state, what is your attitude to the proposals that have been made for a possible deferment of the election?

[Sobchak] There can be no deferment. The presidential election must take place in 1996, and there are and must be no other options, regardless of the situation and no matter how it shapes up!

[Anokhin] Let us say that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin decides not to participate in the upcoming presidential election. Do you personally see an alternative candidacy around whom the democrats can unite? Could you name him?

[Sobchak] I personally have a good idea of who it might be. Such figures exist, but I do not want to name them prematurely, so as not to do any harm. I believe that it will be someone not with extreme views, someone capable of making compromises and reaching agreement not only with like-minded people but also with political opponents.

[Anokhin] Speaking recently about the need to convene a democratic congress, Sergey Filatov, leader of the Presidential Staff, named a very vague timing—fall, winter, spring....

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[Sobchak] The holding of the Congress of Democratic Forces must be initiated not by the Presidential Staff but by the democratic forces themselves, by the aktiv of the democratic parties and organizations. Why, you will agree, must we wait for Sergey Filatov or someone else to decide that it is necessary to meet in the fall or the winter? If such an idea has matured—and it has, for the democratic impulses in society are clearly dying down—then the leaders of the democratic movement must meet and determine their position independently. I am prepared to initiate such an idea, and at the next session of the Public Chamber I will attempt to raise this question, so as to determine the dates, the form, and the substance of the upcoming democratic forum.

Democratic Parties Vying for Influence

MK3008094194 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Sergey Parkhomenko report in the "Tactics" column: "Democratic Choice Is Waiting for the Fall Offensive by the Opposition. 'Counterattack' Action Is Planned for the Most Part"]

[Excerpts] Last Saturday members of the Russia's Democratic Choice Party Political Council held a conference (which incidentally, owing to a lack of quorum, had no powers to make any official decisions) to discuss the problem of "political strategy and tactics of party activity in connection with the anniversary of the September-October 1993 events and the upcoming attack by the opposition."

The majority of conference participants agreed that democratic forces during this period should not initiate the organization of any mass events like rallies, marches and so forth. Such actions are possible only in response to actions by the opposition. [passage omitted]

Anatoliy Chubays' statement about a sharp intensification in the activity by the agrarian lobby observed in the "pre-harvest period" caused a lively debate among the participants. [passage omitted]

As a result, Political Council members unanimously supported the idea of preparing, on behalf of the party, a statement "On Resisting the Growing Pressure by the Agrarian Lobby."

In the conference lobbies, active discussion also focused on the situation that emerged following the death of a prominent Russian writer and public figure and deputy of the 5th Duma, Vasiliy Selyunin. Under the current election regulations, the deputy mandate from Russia's Choice will now be transferred to the aspirant who followed him immediately in the list of the regional candidates group (in this case, from Moscow). That would be Lev Ponomarev, a leader of the Democratic Russia movement.

It will be recalled that relations between Democratic Russia and Russia's Choice appreciably aggravated during the period when a group of leading Russia's Choice figures led by Yegor Gaydar began preparations for creating a full fledged political party based on its election association. As is known, at the next Democratic Russia congress Gaydar was given a more than restrained reception, and all his efforts to persuade the leaders "of the most massive democratic movement" to join, together with all their regional organizations, the ranks of the nascent party ended in failure. The conflict will apparently aggravate now when the leaders of the two organizations vie for the right to be considered initiators of "a consolidating congress of democratic forces."

Therefore the appearance of Lev Ponomarev in the Duma assembly hall will in all likelihood not bring Yegor Gaydar, who heads the Russia's Choice parliament faction, anything but more anxiety.

MMM Wants Referendum on Government

LD2908163594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 29 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—The activities of such companies as the notorious "MMM" investment fund is bad for the country's stability both politically and economically, says Sergey Filatov, the head of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's administration.

"MMM's immoral game with its shareholders only plays into the hands of those businesses who thrive on instability in the country, since instability feeds inflational processes, which makes it easy to produce high dividends", the chief of staff told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

MMM has begun a signature-collecting campaign to force a vote of confidence referendum on the government, which Filatov says reflects businessmen's desire to switch "from economics to politics and get rid of the current authorities". This is why, according to Filatov, some businesses are big contributors to such politicians as ex-vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy and extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

At the same time, the government is determined to learn its lesson from the MMM scandal. "We are learning the rules of the market, which demands that citizens be legally defended from dishonest companies. With that in mind, the state should actively participate in telling the population about the activity of financial structures", the chief of staff said.

Government Representative to Federal Assembly Appointed

MM3008083394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Official"]

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[Text] Andrey Yevgeniyevich Sebentsov, first deputy leader of the Russian Federation Government apparatus, has been appointed the Russian Federation Government's plenipotentiary representative to the Federal Assembly by directive of the Russian Federation Government.

Rutskoy Denies Plans To Stand for Duma Post

LD2908182294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Former vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy has denied the rumors to the effect that he is allegedly planning to stand for the Russian State Duma. Let me remind you that there will be a by-election in Mytishchi constituency No. 109 on 30 September, to replace deputy Andrey Aydzerdzis, who was killed some time ago. Rutskoy stressed that he does not consider valid the Russian Constitution adopted in December 1993, and therefore cannot stand for illegal bodies of power—end quote.

Zhirinovskiy: Nationality Provokes Ethnic Conflict

LD2908131294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1046 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Ethnic divisions in Russia was a Communist mistake, exacerbated by the democrats who carried it to the point of absurdity and provoked ethnic conflicts, the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy declared.

As he noted in the town of Kozmodemyansk, Mari-Eli Republic (Volga Region), at a rally, which according to the LDP press service gathered at least 3000 people, upon gaining power the LDP would abolish the mention of nationality on passports. "We are people of Russia, and Russia is a homeland for all. All nations, big and small, stand equal before the law. All have the right to preserve their traditions and customs, develop their ethnic culture, and worship as they please."

In Zhirinovskiy's opinion, ethnic-territorial division "serves the far-fetched announcing of superiority by one nation over another and becomes a source of ethnic strife."

On the situation in Chechnya, he noted that "its only a matter of time before coffins from Chechnya arrive, and if it was a province led by General Aleksandr Lebed or Albert Makashov, there would be order and calm," Zhirinovskiy said.

Zaveryukha Calls Peasants' Rally 'Extremist'

MM3008101594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Yelena Yakovleva: "Agrarian Party Abuses Authorities, But Peasants Trust Exclusively to Themselves"]

[Text] An all-Russian rural rally held in Moscow 25 August demanded the resignation of the president and the government "for destroying agriculture." In the opinion of Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha, however, the situation is not so tragic.

It was clear throughout the rally which, according to the claims of its organizers (not confirmed, however, by reports from local level), assembled representatives from 72 regions of the country, that its participants would not even try to obtain economic concessions from the government: All speeches carried the refrain "Down with the rotten regime, whose name is Yeltsin."

Meanwhile, on the same day and at a time appointed in advance, Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha was waiting to receive petition-bearers who were to have been chosen, but were not chosen, and the premier himself waited for them the next morning.

Not waiting for the proud and irreconcilable oppositionists, the vice premier accused them of political chicanery. Aleksandr Zaveryukha—board member of the Agrarian Party which organized the raly—had not been especially initiated into [the organizers'] intentions, and described the mood of the crowd as political extremism. In Aleksandr Zaveryukha's opinion, it is possible to criticize, to denounce, and to castigate the authorities in the prevailing situation, but this is a pretty fruitless exercise; but it is possible to take the normal route and seek specific measures. The normal civilized route is to adopt the necessary laws and uphold one's interests in the budget.

Aleksandr Zaveryukha recalled the generally known fact that this year agrarians worked well on the budget and managed to extract 17 trillion rubles for rural needs. The implementation of the budget, of course, is another matter entirely. The Ministry of Finance last year funded 46 percent of budget support for private farmers, but this year has not given even 9 percent of what was promised. And this is for private farmers—what can be said of the collective sector, which has a far less progressive reputation. However, Aleksandr Zaveryukha said that he and Minister of Agriculture V. Khlystun had just been discussing with S. Dubinin (of the Ministry of Finances) and V. Gerashchenko (of the Central Bank) how to push through the implementation of the budget.

The government would not satisfy extremist demands and would not establish things from above by controlling prices or winding down reform in the agro-industrial complex.

You should fight when the budget is being formed, and then over its execution, Aleksandr Zaveryukha stressed, but there is not much sense in rallies.

Sociologist Galina Yastrebinskaya, who attended the rally and who lived for six months in the remote Arkhangelsk countryside (as part of the famous study of the Russian peasantry organized by Teodor Shanin), told

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IZVESTIYA's correspondent that peasants were indeed disappointed in the current authorities, but are more skeptical and apathetic than angry. People do not intend to go to the barricades, but trust mainly to their town houses, their cows, and kitchen gardens—to themselves.

Lapshin Denies Boycotting Chernomyrdin Meeting

MM3008103194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Feliks Belelyubskiy: "'We Shall Wait for Meeting with New Premier'"]

[Text] Some mass media have issued a report claiming that the delegation from the all-Russia peasants' rally failed to appear for a meeting with V. Chernomyrdin despite having agreed to do so. At a press conference Mikhail Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party, denied this claim.

"The government knew of our decision. We objected categorically to the restriction of our delegation's size to six people. This is a big country and the interests of the peasants of individual regions can differ in part. That is why we wanted to increase the representation. They refused to listen to us. We shall wait for a meeting with the new prime minister."

"A strike in agriculture is a dangerous business. An attempt to halt the production process could end in catastrophe. But there are 'external' strikes, not within our economy, but against our partners. If our labor continues to remain unpaid we shall halt the supply of agricultural output," we were told by Anatoliy Birlyukov, deputy chairman of the trade union of agro-industrial complex workers.

The all-Russia rural rally showed that all rural workers, irrespective of form of ownership—collective farm members, private farmers, State Agro-Industrial Committee workers—are acting in a united front against the predatory policy of bureaucratic capital.

Komsomol Opens Second Congress

LD2708215394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1940 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] The Russian Communist Youth League [Komsomol] began its second congress in the parliamentary center today. The participants opened their forum with a rendering of the Soviet anthem.

Comrade [Igor] Malyarov, first secretary of the Russian Communist Youth League Central Committee, delivered a report on the party's [as heard] work over the past year. He stressed that Marxism-Leninism remains the Komsomol's ideological foundation, but the Komsomol must move from methods of work involving nothing but mass meetings to other means.

Taking part in the congress are 128 delegates from 41 Russian regions, representing 6,000 Russian Komsomol members. Guests include Yegor Ligachev, ex-secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and (Ivan Shashviashvili) and Sazhi Umalatova, leaders of the Movement for the Soviet Union [Dvizheniye za Sovetskiy Soyuz]

Economic Issues

Soskovets To Head Business Lobby

MM2908141994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Rustam Arifdzhanov: "Oleg Soskovets Receives Yet Another Appointment"]

[Text] A Council for Industry and Enterprise has been set up under the Russian Government. First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, who already heads the work of the commissions for operational questions and problems of nonpayments, has been charged with leading it.

The new appointment is because the council has merged two previous government structures—the Council for the Development of Enterprise, led by Ivan Kivelidi, and the Council for Industrial Policy and Enterprise, headed by Mikhail Yuryev.

Both Kivelidi and Yuryev are quite significant figures in the young Russian business world. Their paths to the top of the entrepreneurial pyramid are quite similar. A journalist by training, Ivan Kivelidi, according to the legend related by people who know him, started out virtually by selling pies on the Moscow streets. He is now vice president of the League of Cooperative Members and Entrepreneurs of Russia and general director of "Interagro" and the "Vneshekonomkooperatsiya" Association. Mikhail Yuryev, a biologist, was the founder of virtually one of the first cooperatives in the country and manufactured yeast. Today Yuryev is president of the powerful "Interprom" industrial group.

The appointment of Oleg Soskovets as Russia's chief entrepreneur is not simply a compromise, but a quite logical decision. Despite the declared support for businessmen and the organization of support in return on the part of entrepreneurs for the government's economic projects, lobbying for business circles' interests in the government will essentially be the new structure's main task. Who, if not the first vice premier in charge of industry, among other things, will be best placed to cope with this task.

Chernomyrdin Pledges State Support for Miners

MM2908142994 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 1

[Greetings message signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government: "Russian Government Congratulates Miners and Hopes for Their Support"]

[Text] Esteemed Coal Industry Workers!

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On behalf of the Russian Federation Government and on my own behalf I cordially congratulate all the sector's workers on their professional holiday—Miners Day.

Miners' collectives were the first to give their support to the reform of the country's economy and economic life and have been taking an active part in continuing the course of reforms while meeting the needs of industry and the population for coal output.

The miners have really embarked on restructuring the sector and forming new economic relations between partners. Practical steps have been taken to boost production efficiency at coal mines and open-cut mines and to achieve high workloads at the working face. The construction of housing for the resettlement of labor veterans from the northern regions has begun.

We understand that miners are experiencing the same difficulties as the rest of the country: Mining equipment is not being properly renewed, the necessary reproduction is not happening, and the solution of many social problems is proving difficult.

But these difficulties are temporary in character. Any reform naturally leads to a fall in the pace of society's development, especially when radical changes are taking place in the economy.

The Russian Federation Government is taking measures to lift the country's economy to new heights and expresses the hope that in this difficult period, as in the past, the miners will help by their attitude to labor to consolidate society at this difficult time for us all. We are counting on your support in this regard.

The Russian Federation Government understands your problems and, as in the past, will give the coal industry state support in its development and in the solution of socioeconomic problems.

On Miners Day, your professional holiday, we sincerely wish you success in your difficult work and we wish you and your families good health, happiness, and prosperity.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

Farmers Issue Appeal to Deputies on Land

MM2908150594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 1

[Undated appeal to Federal Assembly Deputies by participants in All-Russia Rural Rally: "Our Instructions to Deputies"]

[Text] Esteemed Deputies!

Today the land question is of vital significance for our country. Certain political forces are ready to sell our land to the highest bidder and hope to tempt the peasants into selling off their lands.

On behalf of Russia's peasants and as citizens who elected you to the state's highest legislative organ we participants in the All-Russia Rural Rally put the following instructions to you deputies:

1. The land must belong to those who work on it and have special training and experience.

2. The peasants' collective-shared and collective-joint ownership of land is ownership by our agricultural enterprises in which their members hold shares.

The right and procedure whereby people leave the joint-stock companies, associations, collective farms, and private farms created by us and take their land with them must be laid down by the collectives themselves in their charters and take into account the economic interests of all members of the enterprise.

We demand the abolition of the president's edict and the government decrees on the free sale of plots of land.

No to the voucherization of land!

3. We are opposed to a second compulsory division of the land, fragmentation of farms, and pilfering of the production potential.

In the event of the voluntary division of a farm, it is necessary to envisage the formation of a cooperative by peasants around the main production infrastructure so that it serves the good of all peasants.

4. Prevent the free and unregulated sale of land and land speculation. Use the law to prevent the emergence of large landowners and rentiers.

5. Create the legislative conditions for the unhindered acquisition of plots of land for the organization of peasant and private farms and their development.

6. Guarantee Russian citizens the right to a plot of land to build a home and subsidiary plot.

7. Russia's land cannot be sold to foreigners and people with dual citizenship.

8. The return of lands to former owners is impermissible.

9. Give the Federation components the necessary rights to regulate land relations in the land laws.

10. We support strict state monitoring of the targeted use of agricultural lands, we are opposed to their squandering, and we say that land fertility must be protected and our nation's natural assets must be preserved.

When adopting laws which determine our fate, heed the voice of the peasantry. The reforms will work when the people understand their benefit and purpose.

Shokhin on Regulation, Investment Policy

MM3008102994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko under the rubric "In the Government": "The Success of the Reforms Depends on Subtle Regulation, Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin Believes"]

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[Text] "There is no miracle cure, no magic wand for recovery," Aleksandr Shokhin stated at yesterday's press conference.

He said that the action program for 1995-1997 is being actively prepared. This work is being directed by Professor Yevgeniy Yasin, and the main role is being assigned to "subtle regulation."

Subtle regulation means the creation of the complex institutions of the market economy. For example, regulation of the securities market, a subject which has become so close to the people's heart since the MMM scandal. The vice premier reported that there have been several weeks of debates over the preparation of the government's decree on the stock market.

Nonpayments are another headache. Let me remind you that it will soon be a year since the attempt to introduce bills of exchange by edict collapsed. In Shokhin's words, the "scale of enterprises' deferred debt to one another is enormous."

Shokhin stated firmly: We should not expect money emission and credits to resolve this problem. The government plans to adopt normative acts on increasing liability for late payments and on the introduction of bailiffs in courts of arbitration.

A law or edict is being prepared on a state arbitration levy [arbitrazhnyye gosposhliny]. Today a creditor who wants to recover money from a negligent debtor has to find 10 percent of the cost of the law suit himself. And since we are talking in billions nowadays many people simply cannot afford that.

Budget payments are being regulated. To redeem a debt the state issued treasury bills of exchange worth 600 billion rubles on 26 August—to settle the account for last year's defense order. This can be used to settle accounts with suppliers and pay taxes.

Hence the next question is this: Will this not lead to a repetition of the situation in 1993 when the countryside and the military-industrial complex were promised payment (which they did not receive) for output already supplied? Yes, Shokhin admitted, a proportion of the debts will inevitably be carried over into 1995. After all, budget revenue is falling and some budget items are not more than 50 percent implemented.

The vice premier also touched on two sensitive issues. First, the question of the wildly spiraling prices for electricity, railroad shipments, and gas. He approved the general agreement among the natural monopolists—the Railways Ministry, the power industry, and the fuel and energy complex. There is also a plan to curb the rise in the cost of rail shipments. To that end the transport industry is being allowed to buy its electricity in the wholesale market, where electricity is cheaper than from local monopolist power grids. Passenger traffic subsidies, funded by freight shipments, will be removed. (Clearly travel costs will rise). Various railroad investment projects (like the Baykal-Amur Mainline Railroad tunnels) will be removed from tariffs. They also inflate prices yet there is virtually no control over the expenditure of these funds.

Second, Shokhin explained the policy of state investments in the economy's "growth spots." Budget investments will now be used only on those projects where 80 percent of the investments have come from private sources. In other words, the state is going to plug the gap. Either as a hard-currency loan at 15 percent interest a year or as an investment in shares which the state will sell in the stock market in two to three years' time after the project has yielded profit. At the same time there will be increased monitoring of those projects which are financed by the budget.

According to Shokhin, there is going to be a presidential edict to regulate the activity of state investment structures. For example, the activity of the Gosinkorporatsiya [expansion unknown] under the leadership of former presidential staff head Petrov, former economy minister Nechayev's Rosfinkorporatsiya [expansion unknown], the Russian Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Federal Project Financing Center.

Shokhin Discusses Foreign Borrowing Strategy

LD2608145894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Russia needs an effective foreign borrowing strategy, Deputy Premier Aleksandr Shokhin told Interfax.

In his words, the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations must work so that Cabinet members seldom receive documents with phrases like "give a government guarantee on a foreign credit." He explained that a government guarantee in reality boils down to a budget obligation to pay the debts of a borrower-enterprise when it fails to do so.

"If while lacking money in the budget, we readily take credits on government guarantees now, in a couple of years Russia will face a huge debt problem." In such a situation "the former USSR debts will not be the main problem for us, we will have the Russian debts to contend with."

Shokhin called for attracting private investment, Russian bank savings included, into the economy. This implies "government guarantees on securities of investment institutions, no matter whether they are banks or funds."

In Shokhin's words, this would attract private savings rubles. Currently, as he put it, "this money mainly whirls in speculative circulation."

Far North Tops Finance Ministry's Priority List

LD2608175594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1603 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] The Russian Finance Ministry regards the financing of the Far North, notably the supply of foodstuffs and factories there as one of its first priority. This

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is the essence of a statement made public Friday by the ministry's public relations office.

Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray demanded the day before that Sergey Dubinin be sacked from his position of acting finance minister because the ministry had failed to fund the supplies of the Far North.

The ministry says that 75 percent of the "northern" finances have already been transferred. This figure is much better than in any other industrial sector or region.

Unfortunately, as much as 50 percent of the finances made available to the Far North have not been put to any use because local contracts have not been signed.

As many as 3.7 trillion rubles out of the total of 5.4 trillion earmarked for the basic needs of the Far East has been transferred. The ministry will make available another 416 billion to the Far North before the end of August.

Starting September, the northern areas will be financed under a new financial plan and the funds will be made available through the federal treasury which will disburse more than 500 billion rubles next September.

The Central Bank of Russia granted one trillion rubles in special credits to commercial banks for keeping the northern areas supplied with essential goods. In numerous cases, for instance in Yakutia, a decision was made that 156 billion rubles collected as federal taxes will be used to finance northern areas.

Ecologically Clean Power Plant Built

LD2708163794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1531 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow's power production plant 21 put into operation an ecologically clean cryogen installation.

A 12 M installation was designed and built by the Russian-Ukrainian joint stock society Kriotron, with the participation of the Moscow-based bank Stolichni. It functions thanks to the difference in the pressure of gas in the gas main and local gas lines.

Moscow's Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said at the opening ceremony that the first and very important step toward the introduction of ecologically clean technologies had been made in Moscow.

Luzhkov confirmed that the Moscow government assigned priority to the development of ecologically clean technologies. He said that although it was Moscow's business to finance its environmental protection programs, foreign investment would be welcome.

"Moscow would still prefer Russian technologies but if the Swedes or Japanese could provide it with quality production at cheaper prices, Luzhkov said, the color of the seller's skin or the shape of his eyes would not bother Moscow."

In Luzhkov's view, Moscow needed as many as 30 cryogen installations which "make it possible to make energy out of nothing". A 7-billion-ruble installation produces up to 20,000 tonnes of liquid nitrogen and oxygen and up to 1,000 tonnes of argon a year.

In Moscow, the Kriotron company is planning to put into operation up to 10 cryogen installations a year. In case it gets loans and tax discounts, it will be planning to produce and transport liquid natural gas.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Minister: No Plans To Send Troops to Chechnya

LD2908175094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Russia will not introduce troops into Chechnya, Nikolay Yegorov, the Russian minister for nationalities and regional policy, said today as he received a delegation of Chechen elders in Moscow today. This was reported by the RIA agency. Nikolay Yegorov said he was convinced that the Chechen people are capable of coping with their problems without outside interference. He confirmed that Russia is ready to cooperate with Chechnya in order to overcome the crisis by peaceful means.

Members of the elders' delegation said that the Chechen people want to maintain peaceful and friendly relations with neighboring countries and to cooperate with all forces willing to help stabilize the situation in Chechnya.

Burlakov Calls for Armies to Stay Within Borders

LD2908170394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1534 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Gennadiy Kulnitskiy and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Berlin August 29 TASS—The one thousand Russian military personnel who will leave German territory this August 31 are worthy of being a true symbol of the new Europe. Over almost half a century, more than six million soldiers and officers have fulfilled their duties in Germany for the sake of peace and security in Europe. Now the question is what path the Russian Army will take into the future, say local political observers.

"Considering the current international situation, all states' armies should stay within their own borders", ITAR-TASS was told by Colonel-General Matvey Burlakov, deputy defence minister of Russia and head of the Western Group of Troops. "Let the peacekeeping forces and other units created on the basis of UN resolutions be deployed where necessary". "I fully agree that it is necessary to build a new Europe and a new planet, where relations between both states and armies should be based on the principles of peace", the general noted.

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The Russian leadership sees the task of Russian troops in future peacekeeping operations as dealing with natural disasters, protecting the environment, saving people and providing humanitarian aid, in the general's opinion. "And, of course, they should reconcile belligerents. I think that the future in our country calls for mobile, quick-response units, peacekeepers and life-savers", he said.

The Russian general said he thought that German military tactician Clausewitz's much-admired maxim that war is an continuation of diplomacy by other means has become totally outdated. Its place has been taken by common values of humanity, cooperation, and mercy. "When building our relations with the armies of the NATO countries, I made use of the German philosopher Kant's statement that "work is the best way to enjoy life". And working towards peace and cooperation, that is man's highest calling", Burlakov said.

Text of Grachev's Statement on Status of Lebed

MM2908105394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 1

[Undated "Statement by the Russian Federation Defense Minister": "On the Situation Around the 14th Army"]

[Text] The Russian press has recently raised a furor over the fate of the 14th Army in the Dniester Region and its commander, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed. Many fundamental questions, concerning, for instance, the positions of the Ministry of Defense and the defense minister, are frequently being treated superficially, in a spirit of sensationalism or even downright political speculation.

Articles in a number of mass media sources pursue the idea that disagreements exist between the president—the supreme commander in chief—and the defense minister in their appraisal of the merits of Gen. Lebed and his role in extinguishing the bloody conflict on the banks of the Dniester. At the same time, rumors that the Russian Ministry of Defense leadership, under the guise of reorganizing the 14th Army, intends to "settle scores with the troublesome commander" are actively fomented.

False conclusions which give the public a distorted impression of the true state of affairs are drawn from all this.

On the other hand, certain political forces are seeking to use the artificial ballyhoo around the 14th Army to whip up passions in society.

I consider it necessary to state the following:

The question of the reorganization or withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester region cannot be seen as an independent initiative of the Ministry of Defense or be isolated from the corresponding agreements and accords between all the interested sides.

All our intentions with regard to reforming the Army and optimizing its table-of-organization structure are geared exclusively toward the corresponding foreign policy decisions, which, I wish to stress in particular, are still being finalized, and it cannot be ruled out that certain modifications will be made to them by the president, the government, and parliament.

The Russian Ministry of Defense entirely shares the high assessment given by the president of the role of the 14th Army and its commander in settling the Moldavian-Dniester region conflict. We realize what consequences could arise from the 14th Army's total withdrawal from the Dniester region before the final elimination of the conflict between Chisinau and Tiraspol by exclusively political means.

One last point which I consider it necessary to add to the above. From a human point of view, I understand the extremely difficult situation in which Gen. Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed finds himself today. We met with him recently and analyzed the situation in the formation and around it. A number of measures were elaborated, which in our view, will facilitate fulfillment of the tasks facing the 14th Army.

Further on Grachev-Lebed Meeting

MM2908111594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Vladimir Klimov: "Is the 'Swan Song' Finally Over? The Generals Shook Hands and Agreed on Everything"]

[Text] You only have to mention the name of General Lebed nowadays to cause an instant uproar in the mass media. It is no coincidence that the phones exploded into life yesterday morning at the Defense Ministry. Everyone wanted to find out what had happened to the out-of-favor general, whether he had been thrown out or merely demoted.

But at that particular moment Aleksandr Lebed was shaking hands with his combat comrade, Army General Pavel Grachev. The opening minutes of the meeting were spent in reminiscing about their combat youth. Their army paths crossed often in the past.

The discussion of present-day affairs, however, began with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev reaffirming the high assessment made by the Russian president of the role of the 14th Army and of Gen. Lebed himself in settling the Dniester conflict and preserving peace on Moldavian [Moldovan] soil. It was firmly stated that the military questions can be resolved only as part of a political settlement. So the fate of the 14th Army will be fully settled when the political decisions adopted by Russia and Moldavia [Moldova] undergo appropriate state-legal study and are ratified by the countries' parliamentarians.

But does this mean that everything in the Russian forces stationed in the Dniester region will remain unchanged? Most probably not. But as our newspaper has written, no one had or has any intention of "clipping the wings" of

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Gen. Lebed. It is presumed that he will head the operational group of Russian forces in the Dniester region, that is, he will occupy a place befitting his rank and present office.

What will the structure of the troops be? Nothing is settled on that question at the moment. It may be a structure with the rank of headquarters. In any event this structure will take into account the present-day reality and the interests of Russia and of the personnel of the 14th Army—the officers above all.

That, according to our sources, is how the problem which has caused a tremendous uproar in the press has been resolved. The solution won Gen. Lebed's approval on the majority of the points under discussion. There has already been a positive reaction from the 14th Army's officers too. It is to be hoped that the passions generated by Gen. Lebed and his army will die down.

Defense Ministry Denies Chemical Weapons in 14th Army

LD2908115994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1016 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Aug—"Sensational" claims made by some mass media that "a mass stock of bacteriological and chemical weapons" are stored at the depots of the 14th Army, which is deployed in the Dniestr Region, "have nothing to do with reality and are clearly of a provocative nature." ITAR-TASS was informed of this at the Russian Defense Ministry's Directorate for Information and the Press.

Representatives of the directorate stressed that there has never been, nor are there now, any chemical nor germ warfare weapons at the 14th Army's depots. The directorate also considers that the situation surrounding the withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniestr Region is being whipped up by some mass media which are using all sorts of rumors and inventions to this end.

Defense Ministry Statement on 14th Army's CBW

MM3008100394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[Statement by Russian Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate: "No Chemical and Bacteriological Weapons in Dniester Region"]

[Text] Some of the mass media have recently been whipping up the situation around the withdrawal of the 14th Combined-Arms Army deployed in the Dniester Region. All kinds of rumors and conjecture are being employed to this end. For instance, DELOVAYA GAZETA, a business weekly in Moldavia [Moldova] published 25 August the article "Swans [Lebedi] Take Off Without a Run," claiming, in particular, that 14th Army dumps allegedly hold "a lot of bacteriological and chemical weapons."

Such "sensational" claims have no bearing on reality and are clearly provocative in nature. The Russian Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate states that no chemical and bacteriological weapons have ever been or are held at 14th Army dumps.

Preview of Exhibits at Farnborough Air Show

LD2908165894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Alexey Didenko, a senior official from Aviaexport company told Interfax that Russian aircraft producers and dealers are counting on success at the traditional international fair in Farnborough between September 5 and 11 and hope it will bring a big number of popular as well as new exhibits.

Didenko, who is one of the organizers of the Russian section, said the core of the section will be formed by the passenger liners Ilyushin-96MO (long-distance jet with Pratt & Whitney engines) and Tupolev 204 (medium-distance jet with PS-90 engines) as well as new military aircraft. For instance, the Sukhoi design and production center will demonstrate Sukhoi-30MK and Sukhoi-35 combat planes (both fully armed). The Mikoyan works will show MIG-29M and MIG-29- CE aircraft in action.

Didenko said the Sukhoi center will also bring a unique sports plane Sukhoi-29LL, the first ever in the world to be equipped with a super-small ejection seat.

In addition to planes Aviaexport is offering a wide choice of Russian helicopters: MI-8, MI-17, MI-26, KA-32 and others that have done well in many countries from the USA to Thailand.

Didenko is quite optimistic about the prospects of Russian goods on the world aircraft market. He said Aviaexport links its future with absolutely new markets in South and Central America and South-East Asia where helicopters now head sales.

Lax Storage of Nuclear Material, Theft Cited

OW3008095594 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Aug 94 Morning Edition p 3

[By Yoichi Nishimura]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug—Former Chief Inspector Kuznetsov of the Russian State Committee for Atomic Power Surveillance [SCAPS], who headed the committee's Inspection Bureau until the end of 1992, recently gave an interview to ASAHI SHIMBUN.

In the interview, Kuznetsov said the Russian Atomic Power Ministry does not accurately know how radioactive substances are stored and transported in the nation, noting considerable amounts of nuclear fuel are not protected from burglars. In addition, he referred to the accidental explosion of improperly-treated nuclear waste.

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In the SCAPS, Kuznetsov was in charge of supervising about 70 nuclear facilities and power plants near Moscow. Based on the experience, he noted that in Russia and other former Soviet republics, several medical facilities and closed nuclear cities, such as Arzamas 16, are not adequately protected from burglars.

As examples, Kuznetsov introduced the following theft cases:

1) From 1991 to 1992, 1.5 kilograms of fissionable uranium 235 was stolen from a nuclear facility in Moscow Oblast. The offender kept the uranium on a porch.

2) In October 1992, 180 kilograms of cesium 137 was stolen from a physical energy research institute in Obninsk.

3) During the "Moscow turmoil" in October 1993, 13 units of a fire prevention device containing plutonium disappeared from the Moscow Municipal Office.

4) In October 1993, fuel rods were stolen from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Kuznetsov stated: "Russia does not yet have clear national policies for the safekeeping of radioactive substances. Moreover, Russia does not have a complete list of radioactive substances in the nation. Nuclear engineers are suffering from reduced wages, and they often do ot receive wages as scheduled. These factors all benefit organized criminals."

Kuznetsov then referred to the danger of improperly-treated nuclear waste, noting liquid nuclear waste exploded three times at an underground storage facility in Ulyanovsk Oblast, and these explosions caused minor tremors. In conclusion, he noted Russia is not ready for managing increasingly radioactive substances while the Ukraine is going to send strategic nuclear warheads to Russia for disassembly.

Since resigning from the SCAPS, Kuznetsov has been promoting campaigns to strengthen control over radioactive substances in Russia, stressing the danger of Russia's nuclear storage practices.

Plutonium Issue, Accusations Against West Aired

LD2908211794

[Editorial report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 29 August carries a 12-minute "Details" program hosted by Sergey Dorenko, which deals with the issue of theft of radioactive substances.

The program opens with Dorenko describing in some detail how to make and wire a nuclear bomb and what radioactive components are necessary for the enterprise. He mentions the type of explosives, detonators, and neutron emission devices which must be used: 8 kg of 94 percent pure plutonium or 25 kg of condensed uranium 235. Uranium would make a more effective bomb than plutonium, he says. Video diagrams are shown during Dorenko's narrative to demonstrate to viewers the exact components of a uranium and a plutonium bomb. All of the material on the subject used in the program, Dorenko says, was received from "foreign press reports, especially TIME magazine."

The aim of this graphic description of the process of the nuclear bomb production, Dorenko says, is to show to potential thieves of radioactive materials that not all components can be used for the purpose and that there is no point in stealing everything that they can lay their hands on. "The paradox is that the overwhelming majority of people have no orders to steal nuclear substances. They do it in the hope of finding an incidental buyer," Dorenko says.

Aleksandr Mikhaylov, captioned as head of the Special Investigation Center of the Counterintelligence Service, says in a recorded video interview: "In one recent incident in Kaliningrad, 60 kg of a certain substance was stolen. However, on closer look it turned out that the substance was not a radioactive component and could not therefore be used for any nuclear purposes. Unfortunately the fact that plotters, criminals, and generally unintelligent people have a distorted idea of the nuclear material market means that while intending to steal radioactive material they steal substances which can only be harmful to their own health and to the health of those around. Russia produces other types of marketable products which are no threat to health and which yield better profits. While these products exist, no person in his right mind would risk his life exporting, from Russia included, or importing any radioactive substances."

Mikhaylov continues: "The visit by Mr. Schmidbauer to Russia and the talks which were held in this building show that the German side is indeed seriously concerned over nuclear terrorism or the proliferation and trafficking of nuclear materials in Germany. But in the process of the talks we did not receive any reliable information on whether the incidents mentioned in the German press have anything to do with Russia. We have not ruled out this option and are considering it among others. And work is being carried out to investigate the issue. The only thing that I would like to stress is that unfortunately all the incidents involving confiscation of various radioactive components came to our attention from the press—not through any direct contacts with the German special services."

Dorenko then moves on to the subject of the West's ulterior motives in waging scandals over Russia's nuclear problems. "The Foreign Intelligence Service does not rule out the possibility that rows with Russia over the nuclear issue are motivated by the desire to put political pressure on our country," he says.

A further extract of the interview with Mikhaylov follows, in which Mikhaylov says: "There are several political aspects to the problem, I think. The first thing is that Western special services want to take Russia's nuclear weapons under their own control. Second, attempts are made to compromise Russia as an unreliable partner in

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nuclear power engineering. The third aspect, I think, involves domestic situations in the countries which have begun to play the card of Russia's nuclear danger."

Dorenko comments: "No matter whether the suspicions of the two sides are well-founded or groundless, Russia is refusing to allow the West to create at its own cost a nuclear control system adopted in developed countries. Russians say: Give us the money, we will set it up ourselves."

He continues: "However, even if the guarding of military sites can be considered to be more or less effective, the situation at civilian structures cannot be worse. According to the evidence of my colleague Dmitriy Kiselev, during his stay at the Murmansk base of the civilian nuclear fleet, he found innocuous babushkas guarding the gates, while the staff had stolen a radioactive source. The fact that there are cases of incidental contaminations by Russia's homeless nuclear devices is also evident from the records of the special service (Rodon), which uses a dump under the Sergiyev Posad monastery [in Moscow] to bury radioactive substances detected at rubbish tips. There have also been reports of incidents involving nuclear terrorism when bandits simply stick radioactive devices to motor vehicles or place them at their enemy's job station, killing him without the need of a gun."

At this point Dorenko plays a further extract of the interview with Mikhaylov, who says: "We know of several incidents when radioactive substances were used by people as a weapon against an enemy."

Scientists See Plutonium Claims as 'Provocation'

MM3008104794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Rebrov: "Nuclear Provocation. 'Riddles' and Myths Connected With Plutonium and Uranium Thefts Discussed by Specialists From Arzamas-16 Nuclear Center. And Not Just Them"]

[Text] Arzamas-16—The discordant fuss over the plutonium-239 found in the hand luggage of a passenger arriving at at Munich Airport from Russia has reached Arzamas-16. Those working there are using many parameters to assess the case. And, apart from their professional concern, they are not concealing their equally professional indignation about the reluctance shown by politicians and news agencies to listen to their informed opinion.

I spoke with V. Beluzhnyy, director of the Russian Nuclear Center, Chief Designer S. Voronin, Chief Engineer Yu. Tumanov, Professor S. Novikov, leading specialists A. Voynov and V. Selemir, and Doctor Steven Younger, an American scientist from the U.S. Los Alamos National Laboratory. They all claim, and most cogently, that the fuss is nothing but a provocation concocted by politicians and seized upon by the press—an act of propaganda with malevolent overtones. Since even the first and noisiest cry of "Guards!" has not been backed up by any kind of serious evidence. Incidentally, even the German scientists themselves feel somewhat awkward owing to the unconvincing and dubious nature of their stories.

The facts are these—the plutonium in question is not used and is not produced in Russian nuclear weapons. This is confirmed by data from a special analysis. It is the same as, say, steel or copper—a study of the sample can accurately determine the plant where it was produced. Moreover, no weapons-grade plutonium-239 has gone missing in Russia, and the quantities present at its "areas of usage" are confirmed by documents. As for the question of the specific ownership of the ill-fated nuclear material, it has to be answered by Bernd Schmidbauer, minister of state at the FRG Federal Chancellery. If he requires skilled assistance, scientists from Arzamas-16 are ready to provide it. But there has as yet been no official statement from the minister.

Fuel was added to the flames by the 22 August incident at Arzamas-16. What happened was this. Two "persons unknown" (their names are not being given for the time being in the interests of the investigation) were detained and arrested at a checkpoint. Their car contained uranium-238, criminal proceedings have been instituted, and an investigation is under way. Western news organs are trying to use this fact to support the theories about the plutonium-239 that have already been refuted. It is being claimed that the eight or nine kilograms of "fresh weapons-grade material was intended for a mysterious and secretive figure."

Some clarification, it seems, is required. First. The uranium-238 was not weapons-grade material at all. It is used for technical purposes and typically emits low-level radiation. Second, the material discovered on the "persons unknown" at the checkpoint is technological waste from experiments carried out in 1988. It is not subject to special storage, although it is accounted for. Third, any removal of uranium-238 is prevented by technical controls [kontrol]. I repeat—controls!

Now to turn to the main point. Why is so much left unsaid in the various statements and hints about the "plutonium-uranium affair"? Who needed this? For what purpose? I will tell you. To get the public worked up, to scare the gullible, to cast aspersions on Russian nuclear production and scientific centers, to make people doubt that we observe safety norms and are not involved in the illegal trafficking of nuclear material, and so forth. And then to impose on public opinion the idea of the need for stringent international monitoring of "the Russians' secret nuclear installations," of the need to send "blue helmets" to Arzamas-16, Chelyabinsk-70, and similar closed cities. Just in case....

Beautiful, isn't it? Except that it is all designed for simpletons. It will not work! You cannot run big-time politics on the basis of provocations. It would be better for us to make joint efforts to find out where the plutonium-239 came from. And put a stop to such things.

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Lack of Funds Delay Radioactive Waste Recycling

LD2908163694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS corrrespondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—The Russian Government has developed detailed plans for the storage and recycle of radioactive wastes, but does not have enough money to implement it.

The programme includes the construction of special recycling factories and storage sites in the northern and far eastern areas of Russia, ITAR-TASS was told today by Nikolay Yegorov, the Russian deputy minister for atomic energy.

Those construction plans are part of the "list of top-priority tasks in the treatment of radioactive wastes", a document which reflects the first part of the government programme. However, it is impossible to implement them completely now, since funds are short, Yegorov said.

The atomic deputy minister noted that even putting the most vital measures into effect is problematic. The Atomic Ministry needs 115 billion roubles for the programme, but has been promised only 45 billion, of which not one rouble has yet to be actually assigned. "The most important jobs have practically been cancelled", Yegorov said.

Work on Development of New Booster Rocket

LD2908171994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1516 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The development of Angara, the Russian next-generation booster-rocket, will require detailed studies for at least 18 more months after which practical work can begin, Deputy General Director of the Russian Space Agency Boris Ostroumov told Interfax.

A rough design of the rocket was made a year and a half ago and the first Angara could be launched before 2000. According to Ostroumov, the main problem is financing.

At the moment the financial side of the project is being examined by the general contractor: The Khrunichev space works and experts from the Energiya space corporation that will make the booster block of the Angara. The press secretary of the Khrunichev space works, Sergei Zhiltsov, has told Interfax that the results of the investigation will be announced in September.

Ostroumov felt that the project is most likely to be financed by the Defense Ministry which came out with the initiative and would be the main user of Angara, which will give Russia guaranteed access to space from launching sites on its own territory.

Nevertheless, Russian manufacturers working on the project do not rule out the possibility of the joint use of Angara with Western partners. Zhiltsov confirmed reports about the possible organization of a joint venture similar to the operating Lockheed-Khrunichev-Energiya for the use of Angara in international space programs.

Angara is a two-stage heavy booster-rocket using as fuel oxygen-kerosene (1st stage) and oxygen-hydrogen (2nd stage).

Angara will be capable of taking to a circular orbit at an altitude of 200 kilometers 24 tonnes from the new cosmodrome in Svobodnoye (the Far East) and 22 tonnes from Plesetsk (North Russia). Booster blocks will be used for placing probes in geostationary orbits (36,000 kilometers above the Earth). In this case the payload will vary from 3.5 to 5 tonnes depending on the model of the block which will also work on liquid oxygen combined with kerosene and hydrogen.

Launching pads for Angara will not be built in Baykonur (Kazakhstan) from where Proton, the main Russian heavy rocket, is being launched.

Progress-Mir Docking Attempt Set

LD3008085694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0711 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—Specialists from the flight control centre believe that the second attempt at docking between the Progress ferry and the Mir space station, scheduled for 18:50, Moscow time (14:50 GMT), this Tuesday should be succesful, ITAR-TASS learnt at the centre today.

Therefore, a meeting held at the centre on Monday evening did not examine other versions for bringing supplies to the orbital station.

The centre's specialists are sure that they established in detail the reason for a failure of the docking on August 27. They fed several additional parameters in the computer which will enable them to avoid repetition of Saturday's situation.

It will be remembered that the rendezvous regime automatically switch off in the ferry about 150 metres from the space station. The ferry, fired off on August 25, travels in controlled automatic flight up to this time.

Specialists discussed several possible versions of the failure at the meeting and decided to make a second docking so as to avoid the use of the faulty unit.

The Progress M-24 is to bring foodstuffs, consumable materials for explorations and fuel for cosmanauts Yuriy Malenchenko, Talgat Musabayev and Valeriy Polyakov. The centre did not plan to launch another ferry to the station till next October.

If today's attempt at docking fails (the ferry has fuel only for another attempt), the top executives of the space industry will have to look for money for another launching.

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Regional Affairs

Chechen Opposition Setting Up TV-Radio Station

LD3008101794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0745 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy rayon, Chechnya), 30 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Interim Council's press service said today that it considers the meeting of experts representing a range of opposition movements in Chechnya, which took place yesterday in Ken-Yurt village, to be an important step toward creating a coalition of Chechen opposition forces.

Ruslan Martagov, head of the Chechen Interim Council's press service, told ITAR-TASS that the meeting discussed practical steps by the opposition to organize joint actions aimed at overthrowing the regime of Dzhokhar Dudayev. Appropriate draft documents were discussed and drawn up which leaders of opposition forces and movements may sign in the next few days. Representatives of the Interim Council proposed setting up in Chechnya a republican TV and radio company based on the commercial TV studio in Tolstoy-Yurt village, where Khasbulatov's "peacemaking group" is based. The Interim Council expressed readiness initially to allocate 15 million rubles toward this. A powerful radio station, called Zhizn, is already working in Tolstoy-Yurt broadcasting within a radius of 600 km.

The leaders themselves of the main forces of the opposition—Umar Avturkhanov, Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Beslan Gantamirov—did not take part in the meeting.

Local observers think that recent meetings of the Chechen opposition forces bear witness to the fact that the opposition is overcoming its disunity. Ruslan Khasbulatov is not ruled out as a possible leader of the coalition of Chechen opposition forces.

According to information from the Interim Council, representatives of Khasbulatov's "peacemaking group" were to have met Dzhokhar Dudayev in Groznyy Monday. However, there is no information yet about the outcome of this meeting.

Khasbulatov Speaks on Chechen 'Opposition' TV

LD3008104194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0953 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Znamenskoye (Nadterchnyy rayon), 30 Aug—A television company of the forces opposed to the Chechen president started broadcasting today in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt (the venue of the headquarters of Ruslan Khasbulatov's "peace group"—ITAR-TASS note).

Appearing in today's 30-minute broadcast, former Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov said: "There are no Russian troops in Chechnya and no one has any intention of bringing them in."

ITAR-TASS has learned from the press service of the Interim Council that the signal from the television station has a stable reception range of 50 km. Its broadcasts can also be received in Groznyy. There are plans to increase the company's broadcasting time to eight hours a day. In the view of the Interim Council, this will make it possible "To overcome the information vacuum in Chechnya and to change the local people's perception of the current processes in the republic".

According to sources at the Interim Council's security service, an armed opposition group last night blew up one of the special bases of Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters in Groznyy. The base was located in the Kolos Hotel. ITAR-TASS has not obtained any confirmation or denial of the Interim Council's claim from official sources in Groznyy.

Filatov Supports Khasbulatov Efforts in Chechnya

LD2908151794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1352 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, expressed concern over a split in the opposition to the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime. This concern, he said, is connected with the fact that "having the same goal, the opposition has not demonstrated cohesiveness, thereby weakening the opposition's general strength." As a result, Filatov said, after Dzhokhar Dudayev goes from the political arena in Chechnya "an acute power struggle may arise."

Sergey Filatov believes that in order to settle the situation in Chechnya, the main task today is for all the political forces to reach agreement on holding free elections in the republic. The head of the president's administration reminded in this connection that it was possible to overcome last year's political crisis in Russia precisely by holding elections for a new parliament.

In response to a question on the possibility of Ruslan Khasbulatov coming power in Chechnya, Sergey Filatov acknowledged Khasbulatov's popularity in the republic and the fact that "people listen to Khasbulatov." Thus, in Sergey Filatov's opinion, "the peacekeeping mission of Ruslan Khasbulatov and his intention to give Chechnya a civilized legislation is a contribution aimed at settling the situation in Chechnya."

At the same time Sergey Filatov admitted that, as before, he favors Umar Avturkhanov, the head of the Interim Council, because he is "morally clean, and has not been politically compromised by taking inappropriate steps in relation to the population of Nadterechnyy rayon where all legal norms are being abided by."

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In response to a question about the reaction of the head of the Russian president's administration to press reports that the Dudayev militants had sentenced him to death, Sergey Filatov said: "This is an example of the kind of law and the pure anarchy by which the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime is being guided."

Dudayev 'Militants' Seize Counterintelligence Staffer

LD2908160194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1337 GMT 29 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Aug—Dzhokhar Dudayev's militants have carried out an operation to seize a staffer of Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed in the Federal Counterintelligence Service that "the aim of this provocation was undoubtedly to launch a campaign to discredit the Russian leadership and the activities of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, and is also an attempt to shrug off responsibility for the crimes committed against the people of Chechnya."

Placing the entire responsibility for this provocation upon President Dzhokhar Dudayev of Chechnya in person, the Federal Counterintelligence Service has demanded that the detained staffer be released immediately.

Dudayev Alleges Moscow Destabilizing Efforts

LD2908131994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1046 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said he has information from a senior officer of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service proving that Moscow seeks to test nerve weapons in Chechnya.

Speaking on national television last evening, Dudayev said that according to the Russian officer, whose name he did not reveal, Moscow had allotted 150 billion rubles for destabilizing the situation in Chechnya. Dudayev said he believes that the money is used for organizing the opposition in the Nadterechnyy region of Chechnya.

Dudayev said he would like the Russian special services in Chechnya to leave the republic as soon as possible. "Let everyone know that if they are killed here it was not by my orders," he added.

Dudayev said that all officers of the special services "responsible for spilling Chechen blood" will be brought to justice. He condemned the Russian military officials for having transferred to the opposition 47 items of armored equipment and 12 tanks.

Dudayev blamed the Russian leaders for using the Chechen factor for selfish gain. He added, however, that he believes the dominant part of Russia has already realized what such a policy means for it. Dudayev said this had been proved by the treaty recently concluded by Chechnya and the Great Don Troops in Groznyy.

Sources Cited on Alleged Moscow Monies to Chechnya

MM2908152594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Gritchin: "Encouraged by First Success, Dudayev Prepares Fresh Propaganda Attack"]

[Text] Stavropol—You can hear the following from even the most desperate Chechens: I am not afraid of death, I am afraid of a blood feud. A blood feud hangs like a sword of Damocles over your descendants and your entire clan. It is the main deterrent in the current shaky equilibrium between the republic's opposing forces.

The enemies are promising to destroy one another many times over and issuing threatening orders and sentences, but matters are going no further than empty talk. Bloodless captures of military hardware and cases of deserters fleeing with assault rifles and ammunition are being presented as victories at the front.

In these conditions Dudayev's regime has decided to step up the propaganda campaign against Moscow in order to put an end to external isolation in the republic. Encouraged by the successful signing of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation Between the Don Cossack Army and the Chechen Republic, which scandalized the Cossacks, the president of Chechnya is preparing a fresh action. According to a source in Dudayev's immediate entourage, this time the propaganda attack will be aimed at Moscow directly. The president's comrades in arms in Groznyy have allegedly obtained documents showing that Russian "air force" money ["voyenno-vozdushnyye" dengi] is being laundered in Chechnya.

The source indicates that it is a question of an astronomical amount of over 1 trillion rubles that the Kremlin has channeled into subversive work in the Chechen republic. The president's staff intends to give press representatives in Groznyy a detailed account of how these colossal amounts are squandered and misappropriated in the republic. The aim is to provoke dissatisfaction among impoverished Russians at "their authorities' stupid actions."

Last weekend Dudayev found another excuse to raise a hullabaloo over Russian troops massing on his borders. On Saturday [27 August] the Stavropol Union of Cossacks was renamed the Cossack Army at an extraordinary grand assembly. Although this name does not in principle change in any way the status of the public organization, it is clearly pleasing to the Cossacks' ear. General A. Sterligov, leader of the "Russian National Assembly," who was invited to the grand assembly, eagerly reflected on the subject of Chechnya, which is worrying everyone. In his view, it is not Groznyy but Moscow that is the source of the tension. If there were a Russian government in Russia, the patriotic retired

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general tried to persuade the Cossacks, many problems would be solved within a matter of days, including the Chechen problem. On this point, the guest stressed, they are united with General Dudayev. Many Cossacks found their interlocutor's ideas to their liking.

However, the Cossack assembly adopted somewhat different decisions. The Stavropol Cossacks viewed the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation Between the Great Don Army and the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria signed last week in Groznyy as a betrayal of the movement's interests and asked their Don brother Cossacks to repudiate the ill-conceived agreement. It was decided not to intervene in Chechen internal affairs as long as the Russian-speaking population there is not oppressed.

Dudayev Adds Grad Units to Palace Defenses

LD2908150994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1349 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Groznyy, 29 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Two Grad salvo-fire installations were drawn outside the presidential palace in Groznyy at noon today. Before this, there was one armored vehicle in front of the entrance. Rumors are circulating in the city that the Groznyy official authorities are preparing for a possible assault by supporters of the Chechnya Interim Council.

Speaking on local television yesterday evening, the president of Chechnya himself declared that the government could throw the opposition supporters out of Chechnya in just a few days, but it is not doing so in the hope that "these misled people will come to their senses."

All in all, the information coming in to Groznyy from various areas of Chechnya is highly contradictory. Government sources, the press services of the Interim Council, and representatives of the various armed groupings interpret events in various ways, and this is giving rise to rumors and fabrications among the population.

Families Protest Fleet Headquarters Late Payments

MM2908145194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS column: "Protest Action Outside Fleet Headquarters"]

[Text] A mass protest action has taken place in Vladivostok outside Pacific Fleet headquarters.

Hundreds of women and children demanding that workers at the largest military plant in the fleet's ship repair sector be paid came here. Representatives of other defense enterprises who have not been paid since April also took part in the protest.

Tatarstan Radicals: Leaders Betrayed Sovereignty

LD2908154094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1304 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] In the run up to the fourth anniversary of Tatarstan's sovereignty, the radical All-Tatar Public Center accused the republic's leadership of deviating from a policy of sovereignty.

In an address in Kazan to the Tatar people the Center points to the bilateral treaty and 12 "forced" intergovernmental agreements with the Russian Federation.

Tatarstan was one of the first former "autonomous Soviet republics" which declared its sovereignty. This move had been initiated by the Center which united supporters of the republic's independence.

The authors of the address say that in Tatarstan the democratizing of society is being hampered, a political and economic crisis is developing and the republic is being reduced to taking a back seat at the drama about Russia's decline.

The Center proposes a democratic alternative to the official course. It points to the need to elect a two-house parliament with representatives from districts and political parties, the adoption of a national security concept on the basis of neutrality and the republic's joining international organizations so that Tatarstan can be recognized as a subject of international law.

New Sakhalin Deputy Administration Chief Appointed

OW2908231294 Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teleradiokompaniya Sakhalin Television Network in Russian 1905 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Viktor Gorbunov video report; from the "As of This Hour" newscast of the "Morning Cruise" program]

[Excerpt] The ranks of Sakhalin vice governors have swelled. Forty-four-year-old Fedor Sidorenko has been appointed as the new deputy head of the oblast administration in charge of construction, industry, and transport.

Censorship in Ingush-Ossetian Conflict Zone

LD2608175894 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1400 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Vladikavkaz (IPRINDA)—An IPRINDA correspondent reports that the head of the interim administration has ordered that censorship be imposed in the Ingush-Ossetian conflict zone concerning coverage of events in the area. This temporary regulation on censorship has been adopted in order to avert various media publications inciting inter-ethnic hostility and also discrediting the policy implemented by the Russian Federation authorities in the region.

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International Affairs

Foreign Ministry on Treaty With Russia

WS2908090194 Kiev URYADOVVY KURYER in Ukrainian 18 Aug 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Briefing at the Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] Kiev, 16 August—Oleksandr Chalyy, head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Treaties and Legal Department, deemed as productive and fruitful the work on drafting the text of a Ukrainian-Russian treaty, carried out last week by delegations from the two states. Speaking at a briefing, he pointed out that the primary result of this work is the drafting of the text of the document, the general provisions of which meet Ukraine's and Russia's national interests. Oleksandr Chalyy informed the participants in the briefing that the next meeting of the two delegations is to be held between 10 and 20 September. Then, in his opinion, the final text of the treaty will be drafted. However, Mr. Chalyy emphasized that complete mutual understanding has already been achieved regarding such significant factors as both states' territorial integrity, inviolability of existing borders, and the situation of national minorities.

Oleksandr Bozhko, acting head of the CIS Department, told reporters about the 2-11 August visit by a Ukrainian Foreign Ministry delegation to the Transcaucasian republics. In the course of that visit, numerous meetings were held at various levels with colleagues from Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia, and issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed, as well as the progress of and mechanisms for implementing already signed agreements.

A U.S. delegation led by D. Collins, State Department senior coordinator for ties with the newly independent states, visited Ukraine on 10-12 August. As was pointed out at the briefing, the visit was prompted by President Kuchma's dissatisfaction over U.S. assistance for disarmament in Ukraine, voiced at his meeting with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore. President Kuchma said that Ukraine is strictly observing its commitments.

The delegation confirmed that the implementation of the U.S. commitments under the Nunn-Lugar law is still in its initial stage, but assistance will be rendered in accordance with the enclosed schedule.

Ambassador: Russia Has 'Desire To Compromise'

WS3008082794 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 23 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia Volodymyr Kryzhanivskyy by Oleh Medvedev; place and date not given: "Under Kravchuk There Was No Chance To Improve Ukrainian-Russian Relations"]

[Text] [Medvedev] How do you assess the decision to replace the ambassador to Russia?

[Kryzhanivskyy] This was primarily prompted by objective considerations. On 29 August, I will have worked here for three years. So many things have occurred since that time; the situation has been so dramatic, the relations between our states is so complicated, and the scope of my work so important, that I feel as though it has been a lot longer than three years. In fact, a year here corresponds to three years in any other place. Thus, all in all, I have worked here for nine years—that is more than enough.

[Medvedev] Not only our bilateral relations, but also Russia's domestic situation has been complicated. I remember how windows in the embassy were rattling from artillery fire in October 1993, and barricades were erected right outside the building, blocking all the avenues and streets just in case "communist patriots" were to launch an onslaught on Kremlin.

[Kryzhanivskyy] I came to Moscow immediately after the first putsch here, and I lived through the second one. I was here during the elections and two referendums. In fact, after a period of long and strenuous work, I am leaving a very different country.

I view the replacement of the ambassador to Moscow as an absolutely normal process. Here is a similar example: A new Greek ambassador came to Russia in the summer of 1993 and was replaced in February 1994, because a new prime minister had come to power in Greece. Meanwhile, we have a new president.

[Medvedev] By the way, for whom did you vote?

[Kryzhanivskyy] I voted for Kuchma in both rounds, although my wife, as far as I know, voted for Kravchuk. Incidentally, I voted for Ihor Yukhnovskyy in the first presidential elections.

Ukraine's new leader wants to change the accents in our relations with Russia. I, in fact, support him and do not believe that Kuchma will surrender or rush into Russia's arms. With all due respect for Leonid Kravchuk, I must point out that in his presidency there was virtually no chance to improve Ukrainian-Russian relations.

[Medvedev] A negative image of Kravchuk was created in Russia due to a number of reasons, including those of a subjective nature. This image was so stable that all attempts to change it, no matter how serious, were doomed.

[Kryzhanivskyy] There is something to your arguments. I am happy that we are finally approaching a new stage in our relations, when subjective reasoning will be much less significant. The curve of Ukrainian-Russian relations is now going up. Judging by the draft bilateral political agreement suggested by Russia, the latter has a desire to compromise.

[Medvedev] Will the treaty reflect Russia's approach toward the issue that is very momentous for Ukraine—that of inviolability of borders. Will it not contain such

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ambiguities as the treaty of 1991? Will our state's territorial integrity be acknowledged without any conditions, regardless of Ukraine's membership in "the CIS framework" or any other structures?

[Kryzhanivskyy] I am sure that this issue will be resolved because the two sides are manifesting their desire to do so. However, this does not mean that absolutely all the problems will disappear—problems occur even in relations between brothers.

[Medvedev] Will not our rapprochement, again, go too far? Many Russian politicians expect that Ukraine, by making small steps toward Russia, will finally overstep the limit, beyond which its independent status will be nullified and Small Russia [Ukraine] will triumphantly reunite with Great Russia.

[Kryzhanivskyy] The farther politicians are from real power, from the helm, the stronger their desire to "close the cage." Only those who do not count their money dream of reviving the former USSR. Those who count their money, however, who keep their finger on the pulse of life, realize that we should develop as two independent nations, in accordance with the principle "although we are friends, each should smoke his own tobacco."

[Medvedev] What are your plans for the future? Will you continue your diplomatic career?

[Kryzhanivskyy] This will depend on the leadership's decision.

'Changed Accents' in Russia Relationship Seen

MM2608151594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26-29 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Yelizaveta Mayetnaya and Viktor Kolesnik: "Russia-Ukraine: Only the Accents Have Changed in the Score"]

[Text] On the eve of Ukrainian Independence Day, official spokesman Vladimir Kryzhanovskyy answered our questions.

In his opinion, President Kuchma should not be called "pro-Russian" because "Leonid Danilovich's main task is concern for the welfare and prosperity of his native country.... No cardinal changes in relations with Russia are expected in the near future. It is just that the accents have changed, and we have become closer to one another."

Kryzhanovskyy also believes that the protracted division of the Black Sea Fleet is almost complete, and Yeltsin's visit to Kiev, scheduled for the end of September will make it possible to hope for a positive settlement to other controversial problems.

Border Troops Denounce TV Statement on Treaty

AU2908153494 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Aug 94 p 4

[Statement by the Press Service of Ukraine's Border Troops; date not given: "Who Gains From This?"]

[Text] On 12 August 1994, the seventh channel of the Odessa Television carried information on the statement by those leaders of political organizations who are members of the "Democratic Odessa" Bloc. The statement alleges that the signing on 3 August 1994 of the agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on cooperation and interaction on border issues will weaken and may even obliterate the borders with Russia. It also raises, in a categorical form, the question of canceling the agreement.

The Press Service of Ukraine's Border Troops reports that the aforementioned statement is totally ungrounded and that it misquotes the very essence of the agreement, which does not contain a single word about joint defense of the borders with Russia. On the contrary, the agreement is aimed at intensifying practical actions on the part of the Border Troops of Ukraine and of the Russian Federation in their struggle against organized crime at the border, uncovering and thwarting the illegal transportation of weapons, munitions, and raw narcotic materials, preventing illegal migration from the east, and stopping unlicensed cargoes.

The agreement on border issues specifies the responsibility of the sides for illegal actions in the border zone and for the protection of the constitutional rights of citizens, their life, health, and ownership interests.

Consequently, the agreement reconfirms the presence of the protected border between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Having such borders along the entire perimeter of Ukraine, the Border Troops build their mutual relations with neighbors on the principles of friendship, cooperation, and mutual understanding. There cannot be anything else at the moment. Confrontation at the border, for which some political figures are calling, may lead to unpredictable consequences, and any falsification of the agreement between Ukraine and Russia on the cooperation in the border zone may mislead the Ukrainian people and provoke instability on the border.

Ukraine's Border Troops were created and act in conformity with the laws of the independent and sovereign state, and they will not allow anybody to draw them into a confrontation because of political ambitions.

In our opinion, all political and public organizations, parties, and movements must be interested in promoting these principles.

Ukraine's borders are and will remain one of the main attributes of Ukraine's statehood, territorial integrity, sovereignty, and unity.

Illegal Funds Returned from U.S.

LD2908165094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 29 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

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[Text] Cooperation between the Ukrainian Security Service and Western European special services has made it possible to bring back to Ukraine $17 million illegally kept in the U.S., Chairman of the parliamentary commission for combating organized crime Grigoriy Omelchenko told Interfax-Ukraine.

In August alone, thanks to an operation carried out by the Ukrainian Security Service jointly with the FBI, about $4 million was returned to Ukraine.

Omelchenko also announced that the investigation of the illegal sale of aviation fuel from the state reserve at dumping prices still continued. Individual circumstances of the deal suggest that the old Cabinet was involved in it, he said.

He refused to give the names of the officials who figure in the case. He said however, that "facts are available in abundance."

The names will be announced in due course, he said.

Ambassador to United States Replaced

LD2908210694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Washington, 29 Aug—Oleh Bilorus, Ukraine's first ambassador to the United States, is preparing to return to Ukraine. He is currently holding farewell meetings with U.S. officials. The press service of the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington said it did not know who would replace Bilorus.

New Foreign Minister Meets Polish President

LD2908164794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 29 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] Ukraine's acting Foreign Minister Hennady Udovenko met with Polish President Lech Walesa in Warsaw on Saturday, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's press center told Interfax-Ukraine.

Walesa thanked Udovenko for cooperation and expressed confidence that Ukrainian-Polish relations would be given a priority role in Ukraine's foreign policy.

Udovenko was appointed to his post on August 25. He is in Warsaw now for a short visit connected with the completion of his work as Ukraine's ambassador to Poland.

Ukrainian Envoy to Israel Meets 'Arafat

LD2908200994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1740 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Tel Aviv—Yuryy Shcherbak, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Israel, has met Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority Council and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The meeting was held in the town of Gaza in the Palestinian self-rule area.

Yuryy Shcherbak told UNIAN in an exclusive telephone interview that the talks were held at his own initiative and were the first contact between Ukraine and the Palestinian autonomy at the diplomatic level. Earlier, Ukraine's former president Leonid Kravchuk failed to meet Yasir 'Arafat while on a visit to Tunisia. The Ukrainian ambassador said the meeting was an attempt to find a mechanism for bilateral ties between Ukraine and Palestine, which under the Washington accord, is not allowed to be an object of international relations.

According to Yuriy Shcherbak, Israel does not forbid contacts between the Palestinian autonomy and other countries, and even welcomes those which concern aid to the area. "At the moment, the most realistic form of aid which Ukraine can provide is education for the Palestinian youth at our country's training centers," he said. "Another possibility is environmental cooperation, as environmental conditions in the Gaza Strip are horrendous. Cooperation in agriculture is also promising, particularly joint ventures to export fruit to Ukraine."

Libyan Envoy Cited on Relations, Trade Plans

LD2608165294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Miftah al-Fayturi, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to Ukraine, yesterday met with journalists in Kiev. Oleksiy Havrysh reports:

[Havrysh] The briefing was held on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the September 1969 revolution. Miftah al-Fayturi and Valentyna Moskalenko, president of the Ukraine-Libya Friendship Association, briefed journalists on the subject of the development of the so far embryonic mutual relations between Libya and Ukraine. Al-Fayturi said that Libya has done much more than Ukraine to establish these relations, by, in particular, opening its embassy in Kiev, being one of the first to establish diplomatic relations with Ukraine, and by responding to the Chernobyl tragedy by providing humanitarian aid. Ukraine, on the other hand, has not yet opened its mission in Libya, although hundreds of Ukrainian specialists are already at work there. He also said that the Ukrainian commission tasked with studying economic cooperation possibilities is not active enough.

Two important questions to which I wish to draw your attention were raised at the briefing. The first is the possibility of Libyan investment in the Ukrainian economy. Here, Miftah al-Fayturi assured journalists that there are no problems, as Libya will prove its intention to cooperate with Ukraine in practice, the only precondition being that investment protection should be guaranteed in Ukraine.

The second point concerned oil, i.e., Libya's major export, supplies of which are extraordinarily ample. How much of this product can Libya sell Ukraine and how will the payment for it be made?

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[Begin Al-Fayturi recording in Arabic, fading to Ukrainian translation] We have the desire to cooperate in the oil industry. The Ukrainian side also has some proposals related to the processing of Libyan oil by Ukrainian refineries. In the near future this question will be addressed at the level of governmental commissions. In principle, there is a special company in Libya dealing with the supply of oil and equipment for gas stations to other countries. It is a company that can handle this matter with regard to Ukraine. [end recording]

Kiev Hosts Meeting on Building AN-70 Plane

LD2908170094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 29 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] An inter-state consortium which will build and sell AN-70 transportation aircraft has held a constituent conference in Kiev, the Antonov company's General Designer Petr Balabuyev told reporters.

Specialists assert that this class of aircraft has the world's highest fuel-saving characteristics and can land on unpaved airfields.

To date, the consortium includes Russia and Uzbekistan. Kazakhstan and other CIS countries are expected to join it, too. Balabuyev announced that technical documentation has been passed to the Russian aircraft-building plant in Samara, where serial production of the AN-70 aircraft is to be launched.

The first aircraft of this kind are to be produced by the Kiev aircraft-building amalgamation. Test flights are to begin during the next couple of months. Components are to be manufactured in Tashkent, Ufa, Saratov, Nizhni Novgorod and at almost all of the Ukrainian aircraft-building plants.

Head of the Antonov company's marketing department Viktor Bolgak said that the Ukrainian aircraft builders were ready to fit the AN-70 planes out with radio and electronic equipment made in the U.S., Canada and any other country, which will make AN-70's competitive with the European FLA project involving France, Italy, Belgium, Turkey, Spain and Germany.

China Buying Decommissioned Ships for Scrap Metal

MM3008103994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "In What, If Not Steel, Does the Black Sea Abound? Ukraine Sells Ships from the Legendary Fleet to China for Smelting"]

[Text] Beijing—Merchants involved in steel trading in Beijing and Hong Kong are claiming that China is buying up decommissioned Black Sea Fleet ships for scrap metal from Ukraine.

The major part of the ship steel is sold at throwaway prices, it is smelted, and then it is used in construction. It is expected that 800,000 tonnes of steel will be supplied this year.

Some local traders are concerned about the metal. They assert that steel from warships and nuclear submarines is radioactive. How, indeed, has such a commodity made its way to China? Where were the customs officers? The fact is, they explain, that importation is being effected with forged certificates. Moreover, for China's part, companies set up by ministries and state enterprises are engaged in this business.

Reports about procedures prevailing in this sphere were made known to the entire leadership of China. In a bid to rectify the situation, a special organization intended to monitor the import of steel was set up a few days ago.

I asked the Ukrainian Embassy to comment on the situation. The question is taken very seriously here, and data regarding Ukraine's export deliveries to China and Hong Kong were verified. It was said in the embassy that the state has nothing to do with transactions involving ship steel.

And what about the outflow of radioactive steel through private channels? Things on this score are still vague as yet.

National Affairs

Kuchma Decree Raises Servicemen's Wages

LD2908202694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2018 GMT 29 Aug 94

[by UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 29 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma issued a decree raising wages to servicemen in accordance with their rank, as of September 1. This was done to improve the financial position of servicemen and raise the prestige of the military service and the service in interior agencies, the document said. Officers of the armed forces, militia and interior troops will be paid equal wages now for their rank.

The decree was adopted at the request of new heads of the Ukrainian defense and interior ministries, Valeriy Shmarov and Vladimir Radchenko despite a difficult financial situation and the budget deficit in Ukraine.

Defense Committee Supports Shmarov Appointment

LD2908193494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816 GMT 29 Aug 94—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

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[Text] The defense and state security committee of the Ukrainian parliament supports the appointment of Valeriy Shmarov to the post of defense minister, the committee chairman Vladimir Mukhin told Interfax-Ukraine on Monday.

He was appointed defense minister designate by President Leonid Kuchma on August 26. The appointment must be approved by parliament.

Mukhin described Shmarov as a top professional and leading expert on the defense industry and said the appointment was an indication of the president's support for the military-industrial complex.

"In the former USSR Ukraine produced 20 to 30% of armaments and I defend Ukraine's right to export arms," he said.

Mukhin added that the defence industry was one of the most profitable ones. He said $1 of investments in the production of arms gives $20 of profits.

Commenting on the recent decision of the Sevastopol city council recognizing Russian jurisdiction over the city Mukhin said it is not legal or serious and spoke for calm. He is convinced that with time the city council will cancel the decision.

In general in relations with Crimea no abrupt moves should be made, especially as Crimea has been clearly developing in the direction of Ukraine, Mukhin said.

New Minister of External Economic Ties Profiled

AU2908192594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Aug 94 p 5

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Ukraine's Minister of External Economic Ties" issued on 22 August and biographical information on the new minister]

[Text] To appoint Serhiy Hryhorovych Osyka as Ukraine's minister of external economic ties.

Ukrainian President L. Kuchma

Kiev, 22 August 1994

Serhiy Hryhorovych Osyka was born in 1955 in Kiev to a family of white-collar employees. Ukrainian. Candidate of juridical sciences. Assistant professor. Married with one son, who is a student. His wife is a teacher of the Ukrainian language.

In 1977, he graduated from the Kiev T.G. University International Affairs Department and in 1980—a postgraduate course at the Chair of International Law and Foreign Legislation at the same university.

In 1991-92, he worked as senior and chief consultant at the Ukrainian Supreme Council Secretariat; in 1992 he was also a member of the Coordination Council for Issues of Economic Reforms at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

From November 1992 to September 1993, he was adviser for issues of external economic ties to Ukraine's prime minister; since September 1993, he was Ukraine's first deputy and deputy minister of external economic ties and also deputy chairman of the Government Commission for Issues of Ukraine's Cooperation With the European Union and Ukraine's special representative at GATT.

Leonid Borodich Appointed Deputy Interior Minister

AU2908185594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Aug 94 p 5

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Ukraine's First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs" issued on 22 August]

[Text] To appoint Leonid Vasylyovych Borodich as Ukraine's first deputy minister of internal affairs.

Ukrainian President L. Kuchma

Kiev, 22 August 1994

President Appoints Volodymyr Bobrov Health Minister

AU3008073394 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Aug 94 p 5

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Ukraine's Minister of Health"]

[Text] To appoint Volodymyr Oleksiyovych Bobrov as Ukraine's minister of health.

[signed] Ukrainian President L. Kuchma
[dated] Kiev, 22 August 1994

Trade Ministry To Promote Greater Regulation

LD2908154894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Ukraine's Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations intends to stimulate exports by introducing a rigid procedure for guaranteeing the return of hard currency to Ukraine, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Osyka, appointed to this post on August 23, told journalists on Monday.

He said the procedure of regulating imports must also come under review. Osyka told INTERFAX-UKRAINE that non-tariff levers might be used for limiting imports. GATT regulations provide for such limitations in the case of trade deficit and a shortage of hard currency, Osyka said.

He also said that representatives of the IMF understood the position of the Ukrainian delegation.

Osyka said that his ministry intends to restore relations with CIS countries and gradually work towards a system of free trade.

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He also said that one could expect a considerable influx of investment to Ukraine a year after a favorable investment climate is created.

Commenting on the presidential decree on currency regulation, he said that the transition to market mechanisms for shaping of the dollar's official exchange rate must be gradual. "An immediate change-over is out of the question," he said.

Deputy Speaker Favors Stage-by-Stage Reforms

AU3008075994 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Oleksandr Mykolayovych Tkachenko, first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council, by Svitlana Pysarenko; place and date not given: "One Does Not Just Need To Be Free. One Needs To Be Free and Wealthy. This Is What May Be Called Independence"]

[Text] [Tkachenko] No doubt, three years is, historically speaking, a very short period of time, but for individual people it is quite appreciable. That is why, in my opinion, one has to speak about achievements and losses precisely from this point of view. Ukraine has achieved sovereignty and independence, our society has become more democratic, economic reforms and economic demilitarization have begun, and equal rights in all forms of ownership have been guaranteed. These are, certainly, achievements. As regards losses.... Well, losses are largely due to that thesis—"We have what we have" [an allusion to a statement by former President Leonid Kravchuk]. I wish we had in our economy at least what we used to have three years ago. This is, however, not the case. Statistics and life itself show that almost all types of production are on the decline and that a number of basic economic branches are approaching levels that are dangerous for Ukrainian sovereignty.

Independence is achieved through economic measures. One does not just need to be free. One needs to be free and wealthy. This is what may be called independence. I think that some people misinterpret the achievement of independence. Take, for example, the statement to the effect that our Ukrainian land is the most fertile and productive. However, what has been done for that land? Over these three years, the production and application of mineral and organic fertilizers in our independent and sovereign state has fallen by a factor of three. To have land does not necessarily mean to be wealthy. One needs to give something to that land in order to count on becoming rich. I am, therefore, convinced that, due to the incorrect perception of the concept of independence, the sense of responsibility before land has been lost.

Let us take a different topic. The preceding parliament created many good laws. However, they are not substantiated and not calculated economically or in terms of material resources. People have already realized this. Therefore, while paying tribute to the parliamentarians of preceding convocation and to the preceding president, we must admit: Today, both the Supreme Council and the new president have a lot of work to do on previously adopted laws and edicts in order to rectify the situation. Because the present situation simply cannot continue. Analyze for yourselves. The preceding parliament, so to speak, inherited a country with about 1 percent average rate of growth of the national income, but over the last three years, the mean annual rates of its decline amounted to 15.3 percent, and in the first six months of the current year it was about 33 percent. The index of production in the majority of industries, including coal, oil, and gas extraction, cast iron and steel founding, production of mineral fertilizers, chemical fibers, and consumer goods, has decreased by one and one-half to two times. The annual decrease of agricultural production amounts to 6.5 percent.

In terms of the per capita consumption of livestock output and of sugar, Ukraine has been thrown a quarter of a century backwards. Over the last three years, the average annual number of workers and employees in the state sector of the economy has decreased by 2.6 million persons, whereas the apparatus of management has grown 1.5 times. In 1993, for the first time during the postwar period, the total population decreased by 130,000 persons, or 0.2 percent. This is due to the absence of natural population growth (with the exception of western oblasts) and to the considerable reduction in the immigration growth.

[Pysarenko] Oleksandr Mykolayovych, you said that we had achieved independence. Maybe the fact that the people have not become fully imbued with this idea is the main cause for the country's present situation?

[Tkachenko] This is a good question. If those leaders who campaigned for independence had told the people how they understood the situation, or, to put it differently, if they had drawn a balance that, well, we are now in the Soviet Union and our state balance is such and such, but if we withdraw from the integral system called 'Union,' we will have a totally different situation, then, believe me, the people's attitude would have been entirely different. Had the preceding parliament and government elaborated procedures for achieving independence stage by stage, without simply severing all ties, everything would have been different. However, everything proceeded at the high pitch of euphoria, when it was said that we would become the richest and the strongest. Whereas our industrial production was, so to speak, only 5 percent independent, more specifically, only 5 percent of products were manufactured on our territory in a closed cycle. The rest was produced in cooperation with enterprises of the whole Union.

[Pysarenko] Perhaps, if we had proceeded stage by stage, we would never have achieved our independence....

[Tkachenko] Yes, we would. If we had done everything stage by stage, we would not have committed such a bad mistake as the disruption of the single power engineering system. Or who would have attempted to disturb the

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system of fundamental scientific developments where the results may be obtained in about 10 or 20 years. It is this stage-by-stage transition that I have in mind, rather than the legislative one. We should have determined our priorities stage by stage—political independence first, and then gradually, in one branch after another, we could also achieve economic and material freedom. We should certainly have remained within the integral system. The G-7 countries are uniting and so are the "G-12" ones. They are eliminating the conventions of borders, whereas we are building borders.

[Pysarenko] But Russia began building borders....

[Tkachenko] I do not think that it was Russia that started it and not our National Democrats with their one-dimensional understanding of independence. They think that if there is a blue- and-yellow [national] flag and a trident [Ukrainian symbol], that is everything. Constitutional provision is the main thing. A new Main Law has not been created. There is no Constitutional Court.... The country has been thrown many years backwards. In this manner, the proclamation of independence has remained a slogan. Precisely for that reason, the first session of Ukraine's Supreme Council discussed the issue of the main principles and trends in the development of Ukraine's national economy during the crisis period. The parliament has initiated a new program for extricating the economy from the crisis. This document has become a guideline for the government, and corresponding policy documents are elaborated on its basis, and cadres are formed proceeding from it. I believe that such an approach will generate a significant impetus.

In the past, I warned the leadership that the country would find itself in a crisis situation and come out against destroying the system of collective and state farms. There are those who think that, once they got rid of it and staked on private farming alone, this would immediately produce prosperity. It is necessary, first of all, to create a new production system, both material and legislative. People must be trained for that. However, one needs to take into account the fact that, on large territories, the scientific and technological potential may be used to a greater advantage than on small plots. We tried to repeat what people have already gone through. Besides, they did not work in isolation, they united, and there was division of labor. In our country, people also got used to living in villages, rather than on private farms. It was not Lenin or Stalin who formulated or proved the viability of the idea of cooperative farming, but landowner Engelgardt (the son of that same Engelgardt, who had Shevchenko [the poet Taras Shevchenko] as a serf), who proved that large cooperative enterprises alone may ensure and manage a sound economy, introduce scientific and technological progress, and use land rationally. The former leadership would not accept these convictions of mine....

[Pysarenko] You had problems. You are considered to be a conservative. That was probably the reason for the trouble....

[Tkachenko] Yes, I remained without work about three months, then I was invited to work as a consultant for an agricultural firm, and was later elected as president of the "Zemlya i Lyudy" [Land and People] Agricultural Firm. There, we introduced a structure for economic management that is promising for Ukraine. This "Zemlya i Lyudy" agro-industrial association works for the interests of Ukraine and is a prototype for tomorrow's structure of economic management in villages. This is despite the savage pressure and attacks of political adversaries. Let those who want to know the truth read the papers SILSKI VISTI of 19 July and KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI of 6 and 9 August.

With regard to conservatism, I believe that there is nothing bad about it. In many countries, conservative parties are in power, and those countries prosper. For example, I understand, in my intrinsic conservative manner, that southern oblasts will not be able to grow any sizable crops unless they build or renovate the irrigation system. For three years, nobody has taken care of it, and everything has disintegrated. That is why I, as a conservative, will do all I can to see that the irrigation systems are renovated in the next few years, no matter how difficult this might be.

Despite this conservative propensity of mine, people in several oblasts nominated me as a candidate for people's deputy. I was nominated as a deputy by the leadership. I also consider it a great honor to have been elected as first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council. I will try to justify this trust. I can picture reaching the end of this parliament's administration, and you reminding me of my words. I believe in the future of our parliament and of our president and hope that we will cooperate in such a manner that we will not be ashamed to look people in the eye. Then this holiday will be celebrated with greater joy.

Official, Generals Concerned Over Disarmament

AU3008081394 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "The Army and Us": "Can This Be Called Civilized Disarmament?"]

[Text] In his recent public appearances, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs Borys Oliynyk stated that the haste with which Ukraine is conducting nuclear disarmament in conformity with the agreement reached by three presidents, or, as they also say, the tripartite agreement, does not obviously contribute to Ukraine's security and does not, to put it mildly, point to its growing international prestige. Oliynyk recently said that member states of the nuclear club are more interested in the 46 last-generation missiles that will remain in Ukraine, even if it fully fulfills its obligations.

Borys Oliynyk's concern is also shared by the Ukrainian top brass, because Ukraine's military budget is small.

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Whereas, for example, in the United States, military expenditure per capita in 1995 will, according to tentative data, constitute $1,100, the estimate for Ukraine is just... $5.7. You will say that Ukraine is not the United States? Right, but one should not forget that Ukraine has almost no capital for the development of the scientific and technological potential of its military-industrial complex, and military depots are filled with obsolete models of weapons and military technology. Moreover, according to experts, by the year 2000, even if it adheres to its military doctrine of "reasonable sufficiency," Ukraine will need at least 1,500 tanks of a new generation, thousands of combat infantry vehicles, not to mention aircraft or air-defense installations.

Presidential Decree on Export 'Dumping'

WS3008093094 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 2012 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 35; date not given]

[Text] On August 25 a presidential decree was enacted, which is designed to prevent Ukrainian exports at dumping prices.

The decree on moves toward prevention of export of goods, which originate in Ukraine, at prices, which may be qualified as dumping, and on settlement of trading disputes, in particular, states the following.

With a view of realizing the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), prevention of application on the part of foreign states and their economic groupings of anti-dumping procedures to commodities, which originate in Ukraine, and ensuring favorable export conditions, as well as timely moves to protect Ukraine's trade and economic interests, and ensuring its international commitments, I hereby decree:

1. To set up the Interdepartmental Committee for issues involving anti-dumping investigations into exports of commodities of Ukrainian origin (herein after referred to as the Committee).

2. To establish that the Committee's Chairperson is the Minister for foreign economic relations.

3. To put on the Committee's list the deputy ministers for foreign economic relations; economics; industry; agriculture and foodstuffs; engineering, MIC [military-industrial complex] and conversion; foreign affairs; justice; finance; interior; the deputy chairpersons of the State Customs Committee, Security Service of Ukraine; and the vice-president of the Export-Import Bank of Ukraine.

4. To specify the Committee's major tasks as follows:

—establishment and study (investigation) of facts involving application or a threat of application of anti-dumping procedures to commodities, which originate from Ukraine, on the part of bodies of other states, economic groupings or customs unions;

—co-ordination of activity by ministries, departments, as well as Ukrainian organisations, involving execution and processing of documents and furnishing information, which are necessary to conduct investigations and to make relevant decisions in cases of procedures involving anti-dumping investigations and defined by international legal documents and national legislations of relevant nations, demanding submission and consideration of such documents and information;

—drafting suggestions as to ways to settle trade disputes and to protect the interests of Ukrainian subjects of economic activity in anti-dumping investigations and application to them of procedures involving anti-dumping investigations in foreign nations;

—generalization of world experience in the sphere of anti- dumping procedures, and practices of other nations' legislation application, as well as of normative acts by economic groupings and customs unions.

5. To authorize the Committee to apply sanctions, as provided for by Article 37 of the Law of Ukraine "On foreign economic activity", to subjects of business activity in Ukraine in case of legal proceedings instituted against them involving anti-dumping investigation procedures (or a threat of such legal proceedings) against commodities, which originate from Ukraine.

6. To specify that in execution by Ukrainian subjects of business activity of export and import operations immediately or via trade agents, contract (foreign trade) prices should correspondent to those, which have formed or are expected to form for relevant commodities on the export or import market, as of the moment of execution of an export, import operation. Subjects of business activity should bear responsibility for substantiation of prices involving foreign economic contracts.

7. To specify that subjects of foreign economic activity of Ukraine should submit expertise deeds for exported merchandise's conformity with standards, which are active in Ukraine, to the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations of Ukraine, at the time of submission of applications for license execution to Ukrainian customs bodies in undergoing customs clearance of cargoes.

8. To specify that subjects of business activity in Ukraine, in case of exports of merchandise, which fails to meet active Ukrainian standards or requirements, which serve as the basis for computation of indicative prices, should submit to the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations of Ukraine their substantiation of contractual prices at the time of forwarding applications for license execution, and to the relevant customs bodies at the time of customs declaration execution. Such contractual prices should be determined proceeding from the

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database of prices for competitive commodities on relevant markets and export produce quality certificates, and in case of necessity, expertise deeds involving the exported product's conformity to active Ukrainian standards, which deeds are executed and issued following the established procedures.

That the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations of Ukraine, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Economics Ministry, State Customs Committee of Ukraine shall:

—conduct negotiations with relevant bodies of states, economic groupings or customs unions, which apply trade restrictions including anti-dumping ones, or which have a threat of unilateral application of such restrictions to import of commodities, which originate from Ukraine;

—work out, in conformity with Ukraine's active legislation, drafts and, on arrangement with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, conclude relevant international agreements of the interdepartmental nature on reducing exports of commodities, which originate from Ukraine, and envisage such agreements' provisions for commonly recognized moves to lift trade restrictions including the anti-dumping ones.

To specify that exports of commodities, which originate from Ukraine and which are covered by international agreements of the interdepartmental nature on export reductions, are effected given the subjects of business activity of Ukraine possess due certificates of the commodity's origin.

10. To instruct the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations of Ukraine:

—to submit, within a 10-day term, the draft Regulations on the Interdepartmental Committee for issues of anti-dumping investigations involving export of commodities which originate from Ukraine, and suggestions as to the Committee's personal composition;

—to submit, within a month's term, the draft Regulations on indicative prices for basic commodities, exports of which are stable and highly liquid;

—to submit, not later than the fifth day of each month, to the State Customs Committee of Ukraine a list of subjects of business activity of Ukraine to which sanctions are applicable in conformity with Article 5 of this Decree.

11. To instruct the Committee to draft and submit to the Verkhovna Rada [parliament] of Ukraine relevant legislative acts to adjust Ukraine's legislation to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade involving issues of trade restrictions including the anti-dumping ones.

12. To vest the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations with the working body's functions to ensure the Committee's activity.

13. To instruct the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to adjust the government's resolutions to this Decree.

Kravchuk Set To Head Patriotic Forces

LD2908165294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1015 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Ternopol—Today, Leonid Kravchuk, candidate for people's deputy of Ukraine at Terebovlyanskiy constituency No. 364, held a news conference. Answering a question from a UNIAN correspondent on whether he will be able, if elected to parliament, to combine two incompatible things—that is to set up a bloc of democratic-patriotic forces, and not to head it so as "not to scare the leaders who are already in the Supreme Council, and who will not want to give up their seats in his favor," as Leonid Kravchuk himself put it—the former president said that such an association is necessary; however, in parliament it would be just a group whose leader will have to be elected.

According to Leonid Kravchuk, such a union of democratic and patriotic forces, which in certain circumstances could stand up in defense of our statehood, is necessary, not only at the Supreme Council but throughout Ukraine.

Speaking on Teatralna Square before the residents of Ternopol on the same day, the former president said: "The initiative to create such a union should come from here, from Galicia, and I believe that such an impetus has already been given. What is left to do is just to legalize it."

A UNIAN correspondent asked whether the contender for the leadership in the new all-Ukrainian sociopolitical association admits to the possibility of a situation when, according to Kravchuk's own expression, he will "stand on the trench parapet" so as to defend our state's independence, and whence such a threat may come? "This threat to Ukraine has never come from inside Ukraine," Leonid Kravchuk replied.

East, West Ukraine Mayors Discuss Cooperation

WS2908132294 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 19 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Yuliya Pshenko: "West Is West and East Is East; The Twain Shall Meet"]

[Text] People's Deputies Viktor Pynzenyk, Ludwig Miroshnychenko, and Mariupol Mayor Mykhaylo Pozhyvanov are members of the "Reforms" interregional legislative faction. This faction has initiated specific steps toward genuine rapprochement between western and eastern areas of Ukraine. This was the goal of a visit by a Mariupol City Council delegation to Lvov. A joint news conference was held at the Lvov City Council building on 16 August. At the conference, Lvov Mayor Vasyl Kuybida acknowledged the fact that the local leadership had established close ties with West

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European and U.S. cities, while meetings with colleagues from eastern Ukraine had been few and far between.

"It is no secret that in the east, Galicians are depicted as ardent nationalists, while in Galicia, Donetsk Oblast is believed to be Ukraine's pro-Russian center. Both claims, however, are not correct"—said V. Pynzenyk at the news conference. People's Deputy Miroshnychenko added: "Somebody has an interest in seeing the two parts of Ukraine in a clash. Those forces are represented in the legislature, as well. For certain reasons, a large number of Ukrainians are speaking Russian. However, this will pass. Let us not depict those people as Ukraine's enemies."

Neither Lvov Mayor Kuybida nor his Mariupol counterpart, Pozhyvanov, belong to those who want to see a clash between Ukrainian regions. That is why a delegation of the Lvov City administration is going to visit Mariupol in September and sign an agreement on cooperation. An urgent need for such agreement was demonstrated in the course of the Mariupol delegation's visit. The Lvov bus plant is in sore need of radiators manufactured in Mariupol. The search for radiators covered all of Europe, before it turned out that they are produced in eastern Ukraine. Thus, aside from delegations, it might be worth exchanging the lists of products manufactured in Lvov and Mariupol.

Sevastopol Decision Deemed Threat to Peace

MK3008094894 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed NEGA report in the "Ukraine" column]

[Text] On 29 August the press service of the People's Rukh of Ukraine circulated a statement by Dmitriy Zakharuk, acting chairman of the organization's secretariat, on the decision by Sevastopol's City Council to grant itself the status of a Russian city. Dmitriy Zakharuk, on Rukh's behalf, assessed the Sevastopol City Council decision as a "crime against the state, a threat to peace," and called on Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to revoke the decision by the Sevastopol deputies. Zakharuk specially stressed that "the document on the effective dismembering of Ukraine appeared immediately after a meeting between Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman Oleksandr Moroz and Sevastopol City Council Chairman Viktor Semenov which took place on 18 August behind closed doors." Dmitriy Zakharuk added that both Leonid Kuchma and Oleksandr Moroz, on coming to the pinnacles of power, promised to preserve the integrity of the state, and now the time has come when "they both must show to the world how sincere they were."

Meanwhile Ukrainian mass media received from the Ukrainian Justice Ministry an official explanation of the decision made by the Sevastopol City Council to grant it the status of a Russian city. The city council decision was called illegal insofar as it contradicts the constitutions of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea which clearly define the status of Sevastopol as an inalienable part of Crimea and Ukraine. The Ukrainian Justice Ministry explanation says that the Sevastopol City Council must itself reverse its decision in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Crimean Parliament Disbands President's Security Service

LD2908215394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1740 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Simferopol—The Crimean Presidential Service for Security and Interstate Relations was today denied legal status by a meeting of the Crimean Supreme Council Presidium. The service was set up by the Crimean president in a classified edict dated 11 March 1994. Further directives and orders following from the edict were made public.

According to UNIAN's own sources, the Presidential Security Service is still in the process of formation and plans to employ some 90 people. The service, headed by Colonel Viktor Bortnikov from Moscow, has an office in the Crimean Supreme Council building. Serhiy Nikulin, chairman of the Crimean parliament's Standing Commission for Legislative Affairs, told the Presidium that the edict and the regulations on the Presidential Security Service contradict the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea.

Today's Presidium's resolution concludes that the presidential edicts and directives regulating the establishment and activities of the Presidential Service for Security and Interstate Affairs have no legal force. Legal acts issued by the service are therefore invalid and are not to be implemented. The Ministry of Finance is instructed not to finance the service. The resolution orders all documents concerning the establishment of the service to be forwarded to the republic's procurator for appropriate action. According to Mykhaylo Bakharev, chairman of the Standing Commission for Glasnost, the procuracy is empowered to disarm and bring criminal charges against an illegally armed force located in the Supreme Council building.

Interior Officials View Anticrime Edict

WS3008134594 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 20 Aug 94 pp 1, 3

[Interviews with Ukrainian Minister of Internal Affairs Volodymyr Radchenko; Oleksandr Ishchenko, first deputy minister of internal affairs; and Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Kravchenko by O. Hryhorenko; place and date not given: "Does My Militia Protect Me?"]

[Text] About 1,500 crimes are registered daily in Ukraine, including 700 heinous crimes—12 murders, 23 grave injuries, 100 aggravated assaults and robberies, and almost 900 thefts of all kinds. The author of the words used as the headline of this article did not put a question mark at the

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end of the phrase, and he had his own reasons. It is known from history—both ancient and modern—that crime rates go down either in totalitarian regimes, like the one in which Mayakovskiy lived, or when normal living conditions are created, for which we are striving. We have abandoned the former and have not yet arrived at the latter. Thus, our first president was right in saying: "We have what we have." The same, we should add, can be said with regard to the criminal situation. It seems that our second president has no inclination toward passive observation of the current situation. His election slogan: "Today—order; tomorrow—prosperity," supported by most of the electorate, has started to materialize in the first edict aimed at a ruthless fight against crime. However, in our extremely politicized society where a lot of citizens mistrust everything, the edict has met with dubious reaction. Disputes over this edict still continue. The main arguments voiced by the parties involved, were presented in the 28 July issue of DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA. Our questions to Minister of Internal Affairs Volodymyr Radchenko, Oleksandr Ishchenko, first deputy minister of internal affairs, and Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Kravchenko take the mood of that article into account.

[Hryhorenko] Frankly speaking, life has taught us to feel skeptical about the administration's resolutions on overcoming certain drawbacks existing in our state. Will the recent edict not become another campaign? As it is, without tangible socioeconomic changes, the absence of which provides the groundwork for the swell in crime, it is hard to expect fundamental changes in the criminal sphere.

[Radchenko] The crime rate will undoubtedly continue to grow until we grant people decent living standards. Meanwhile, neglect for the law and violations of law and order, the observance of which is crucial for the normal functioning of society, are among the most bitter causes for the current complex situation.

Thus, the reinforcement of the fight against violations of law is a precondition for overcoming the critical situation. The edict emphasizes this factor. The passing of the edict is an objective necessity. This extremely important enforceable enactment covers virtually all walks of life, and regulates legal relations.

The enactment is especially vital for law enforcement bodies because it clearly outlines the priority directions of our activity: Fighting banditry, corruption, and other heinous crimes. It creates the basis for a complex approach, that is efficient interaction of all the structures involved.

[Ishchenko] For the first time ever, the edict envisions the responsibility of heads of ministries and other central executive bodies, as well as enterprises and organizations, regardless of the form of ownership, for recording and storing material values. Until now, the situation was paradoxical—a manager could be held responsible for cases of hooliganism in his enterprise, but not for thefts of metal or, say, construction materials.

[Kravchenko] It is relevant that while preserving guarantees of legality, the edict removes red tape in our work on revealing or preventing crimes.

[Hryhorenko] Do you mean the envisioned permission to carry out preventive detention for up to 30 days and confiscate documents of people suspected of participation in crimes? Will this not give the law enforcement bodies ground for "exceeding powers," as has been pointed out by the statement of barristers, lawyers, and jurists?

[Kravchenko] This cannot happen because the edict is not in isolation, it is functioning in, as they currently say, "the general legal context" and will be applied in line with the current extensive legislation, particularly the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and other appropriate enactments.

I would like to emphasize that the aforementioned provisions [on preventive detention] will be applied only on the basis of, using the edict's language, "trustworthy data," that is to say, substantiated investigation results.

Besides, the edict stipulates that "the detained person shall have the right to defense and appeals against the activities of law enforcement bodies, in accordance with the procedures envisioned by law."

[Ishchenko] I addressed this issue at a Supreme Council session and I also felt that those provisions met with a clearly negative reaction on the part of certain deputies.

[Hryhorenko] What were your motives when advocating the application of those provisions?

[Ishchenko] First and foremost, I was driven by the belief that this will enable to neutralize organizational activities of gang leaders, their influence on subordinates, victims, and witnesses, and will help in the collection of necessary evidence.

Foreign practice persuasively testifies that preventive detention facilitates both prevention and investigation of crimes. In Lithuania, for instance, detention of up to 60 days is currently used. As a result, crime rates have dramatically gone down in that state, and gang leaders have curtailed their activities and moved to other countries.

[Radchenko] When one state takes resolute measures to fight crime, the latter [gang leaders] look for shelter in other states. Unfortunately, we have all the necessary conditions for this—porous borders, opportunities to secure accommodations, find a job in a private company, and so on.

President Yeltsin's edict on combating crime was still more proof of this axiom. Ukraine has gradually become the accumulator of European and Asian criminal elements. That is why we were forced to make adequate steps. President Kuchma's edict is a vital necessity, and one of the first steps toward its implementation was the introduction of a reinforced mode of operation in border oblast interior departments. On the other hand, we have

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started to actively coordinate our efforts with our colleagues from neighboring states.

We have carried out an investigation-and-prevention operation "Highland," ["Verkhovyna"] in the course of which, aside from achieving other results, we detained and brought up on charges almost 1,000 border violators from neighboring states.

[Hryhorenko] This was, in fact, the first operation carried out after the passing of the edict, and it demonstrated that a war against crime had been declared. What is the difference between this and previous operations; what are its results?

[Ishchenko] The aim of the operation was to deal powerful blows to gangs of bandits and racketeers, and other particularly dangerous groups; to stop the activities of foreign criminals; and bar the circulation of firearms and narcotics.

The main distinctive feature of the operation was its large scale. It would be enough to say that more than 380,000 facilities were checked, including more than 3,000 hotels, almost 6,000 bazaars and flea markets, about 4,000 railroad, sea, and river terminals and airports, almost 6,000 restaurants, cafeterias, and other possible hotbeds of local and travelling criminals, as well as people wanted by the law.

[Kravchenko] The edict has given us a chance to operate more actively and resolutely. During the operation, our primary efforts were directed at revealing and booking the members of organized armed criminal groups. Over three days, we liquidated 347 groups of this kind and confiscated 567 firearms, including machine guns, assault rifles, grenades, and explosive devices.

[Hryhorenko] Certain observers believe that the clause of the edict envisioning the use of army hardware and personnel to fight crime runs counter to the current legislation. Is there an urgent need for this, particularly during operations such as "Highland?"

[Kravchenko] In my opinion, this is a somewhat liberal interpretation of the clause. The clause actually stipulates the use of army hardware, while personnel can only be engaged to protect order in public places on the territories of military units.

There is no need to engage the army in actions similar to "Highland."

[Radchenko] We have enough personnel, particularly if we use them reasonably. That is one of the reasons that "Berkut" [militia's special task force] will from now on be used solely to fight organized crime.

[Ishchenko] The "Highland" operation has demonstrated that the reasonable and complex use of all our services can produce the maximum effect, especially in the fight against economic crime.

[Hryhorenko] Can you cite a concrete example?

[Ishchenko] Yes. Using the resources of the units for fighting economic crime, investigation services, the State Road Inspection, and the "Berkut" special task force, the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Interior Department conducted a whole range of operational activities that led to the detention of four organized criminal groupings. Some $19,000 was confiscated, as well as 3.5 million Russian rubles, and a large number of firearms; five cars and 1.5 billion karbovantsi worth of property were also seized.

I could continue citing similar examples. All in all, 3,656 crimes, including 52 attempted murders, were investigated in the course of the "Highland" operation. Large sums of foreign currency, a lot of firearms, and 200 cars were confiscated.

[Hryhorenko] According to the edict, 50 percent of the valuables confiscated from criminals, including foreign currency, are to be used for the development of the material base of the law enforcement bodies and as bonuses for the personnel. Will this not become a cause for embezzlement, given the unsatisfactory living standards of your employees?

[Kravchenko] As envisioned by the edict, "the third branch [judiciary]" will not permit this. In every specific case the deduction of money for our needs will be made solely by way of a court verdict. Meanwhile, the living standards of our employees do need improvement. Qualified specialists, on whose training much money and time have been spent, resign from the militia ranks because of low wages. Our colleagues in Russia, for instance, earn 10 times as much as we do.

[Radchenko] We should build up the prestige of the law enforcement bodies. It is no secret that our service is difficult and fraught with danger. More than 200 men have recently been killed in action, leaving their families behind.

You should write about them, for then we will have more active support from the people. Why not create a charity fund in support of the KIA militiamen?

The edict does not resolve all of our problems; it is not a panacea capable of curing this social disease—crime. However, the edict gives a powerful impetus for resolving the matured problems. The edict can be criticized but should not be banned. Unfortunately, there have been attempts to do so. This is clear, for it is a barrier against corrupt Mafia groups and those who stand behind them.

[Hryhorenko] Do you have any specific data to prove this?

[Radchenko] I believe that we will make these data known in the near future. Otherwise, what was the point in replacing the Interior Ministry leadership, whose work President Kuchma deemed as unsatisfactory at the expanded session of the Ministry Board?

[Hryhorenko] Shall we anticipate newspaper publications then?

[Radchenko] I hope that the press will give us this opportunity.

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Belarus

Minsk Reportedly To Sign Partnership for Peace

LD2608155994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 26 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulbitski]

[Text] Bonn August 26 TASS—The Republic of Byelorusia [Belarus] will sign NATO'S "Partnership for Peace" programme documents almost immediately after a new NATO secretary-general is appointed, Byelorussian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko told ITAR-TASS in Bonn today.

The Byelorussian head of the Foreign Ministry is on a two-day visit to Germany on the invitation of his German counterpart Klaus Kinkel.

The question concerning Byelorussia's participation in the NATO programme has almost been decided, Syanko especially emphasised. "We are also interested in Bonn doing whatever it can to help Byelorussia get immediately accepted into the European Union," Syanko said.

Summing up the results of his visit to Germany, the minister recalled "I am satisfied with the results of the talks held with Klaus Kinkel in Oldenburg on Thursday. I must note the fact that German business is boldly and dynamically breaking into our economy. In particular, an understanding has been reached on the opening of a branch of the united German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Minsk in the near future, and of a Byelorussian house of trade and technology in Karlsruhe," Syanko said.

The pressing problem of nuclear material being smuggled into Germany, and the possible involvement of Byelorussia in this, drew the attention of most of journalists during the press conference.

"This matter may concern only the transit shipment of these materials through our territory, and so it means we should strengthen border and customs controls. The United States has expressed its intention to help us by installing radiation detectors," he said.

Border With Poland Like 'Revolving Door'

MM3008093394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Starikevich: "Only 67 Illegals Crossed into Poland Last Time"]

[Text] Minsk—Sixty-seven people crossed the Belorussian [Belarusian]-Polish border in one day, 18 August, without hindrance, and were detained only when on the neighboring state's territory. Increasingly often illegals from Third World countries are crossing Belorussia [Belarus], the reliability of whose borders leaves much to be desired, in order to get to Europe.

This time the group of violators comprised citizens of Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. They came to Minsk from Moscow by train. The two Azerbaijanis organizing the crossing hired a bus in the Belorussian capital to take the "tourists" to Grodno Oblast. Everything was very easy thereafter: The travelers dug under the border emplacements and were in Poland without a hitch. The guides' services cost them $1,200 a head.

But the Polish border guards, unlike their Belorussian counterparts, were on the ball. The border violators were detained, and handed over to Belorussia the very next day, 19 August.

According to the Border Guard Troops Press Service version of events, the detention was the result of joint operational investigative work carried out by Belorussian and Polish border guard troops. The initial information on the planned border crossing was obtained by the Poles, who then put their Belorussian colleagues in the picture. But it is unclear why the border violators were detained only when already on Polish territory. The Belorussian border guards ascribe this to the fact that it was not known which border guard troop subunit's section would be crossed by the group of visitors from Asia, and also to a shortage of people (personnel are 50-60 percent under strength).

Whether by chance or not, since the Border Guard Troops were removed from KGB jurisdiction, the Belorussian border has been reminiscent of a revolving door. Matters have reached an absurd pitch. At the start of the year a Belorussian citizen in a state of extreme alcoholic intoxication simply walked into Poland. The Belorussian border guards hadn't a clue about this until the Poles found the incorrigible stroller. To be fair, it is far from always the case that violators of the border leave Belorussia without problems.

As Valeriy Manyutin, chief of the Border Guard Troops Press Service, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent, more than 2,000 Africans and Asians bent on crossing the border illegally have been detained since the start of the year. Moreover, Belorussian border guards have 30 people who illegally crossed over from Poland to their credit.

The Border Guard Troops' main problem is that their leadership spends too much time on the political rather than the professional aspects of the job. Proclaiming the objective of ensuring a reliable border, the leadership set up a separate service, the Independent Active Measures Service. But it has won renown first and foremost as government head Vyacheslav Kebich's personal bodyguard rather than as a structure successfully guarding the country's border. Incidentally, according to available information, great changes, both in terms of structure and personnel, are coming very soon.

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Lukashenka Urges Unification of Slavic States

LD2908171094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1456 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, speaking on Sunday night over the national TV, doubted the expediency of the construction in the Russian city of Lipetsk of a tractor-building plant. He said that the plan is being developed by the Russian government.

Lukashenka believes that there is no sense for Russia to spend money for the construction of a plant similar to the Minsk Tractor Plant and proposed to use broader the available capacities for the construction of tranctors in Belarus.

Calling the Russian people, an "elder brother" of the Belarusian people, Lukashenka said that he stands not only for the unification of Russia and Belarus, but for all Slavic nations. "The Belarusian people is sincerely for the unification with Russia," he believes. Interfax Note: Lukashenka, as is known, was the only deputy in the Belarusian parliament who voted in 1991 against the ratification of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreements on the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the elimination of the Soviet Union. During his election campaign, the future president, addressing deputies of the Russian parliament, spoke in favor of the union of three Slavic nations, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

He said that he is flatly against the idea of making land private property. He said that there are many individual farms in the republic, whose land is used with less efficiency than the land of collective and state farms.

He doubted the expediency of auctioning production enterprises and buying them by their work collectives. The auctioned enterprises in Belarus cannot elevate labor productivity, said Lukashenka. Tomorrow, August 30, President Lukashenko will be 40. Interfax congratulates the Belarusian president.

Says Belarusians Support Unification

MK3008101694 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Belarusian President Favors Unification with Russia, Other Slavic Countries"]

[Text] Alyaksandr Lukashenka has said that he is "an advocate of the unification not only of Russia and Belarus, but also of all Slavic peoples." "The Belarusian people sincerely stand for unification with Russia," he emphasized, speaking on national television. In his address the president called the Russian people the Belarusian people's "big brother."

Lukashenka Issues Classified Edict on KGB

WS3008082694 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 23-29 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Mikola Hrynyavitski: "A Classified Presidential Edict on the KGB"]

[Text] One of the latest edicts issued by President Lukashenka is labeled as "classified."

The edict applies to KGB activities. It determines the number of personnel in the organization, its financial means, materiel support, and so on. In addition, this edict enacts a new "Temporary statute of the KGB," which, according to our own information, provoked a negative reaction in the Supreme Soviet.

A SVABODA correspondent was told by one people's deputy that "this document provides the KGB with the possibility to pursue political investigations on a legal basis."

We will recall that the "Temporary statute of the KGB," which was in force to date, was adopted by the Supreme Soviet after the August putsch (1991). The statute was available not only to legislators, but to journalists as well. This time, the presidential "Statute" is available only for 10-15 people's deputies who have been given special authorization by the Supreme Soviet Presidium to have access to "classified" documents.

President Sacks Police Chiefs, Blocks MoD Promotions

MK2708082094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 2

[Unattributed POSTFACTUM report]

[Text] Minsk—Belorussian [Belarusian] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed Thursday evening an edict dismissing eight top officials of the republic's Internal Affairs Ministry. Sources in the Belorussian Internal Affairs Ministry say Edict 64, so far unpublished, discharges the chief of the Internal Affairs Transportation Directorate, the head of the capital's Main Internal Affairs Directorate, and six chiefs of internal affairs directorates in large oblasts of the republic (Minsk, Grodno, Mogilev, Vitebsk, Gomel, and Brest). President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has also confirmed his earlier decision to revoke a resolution by the Belorussian Council of Ministers, signed by Vyacheslav Kebich, whereby a group of senior Defense Ministry officials were to receive the rank of generals.

Lukashenka Consolidates Construction Ministries

WS3008091794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The reorganization of the executive branch and the cutting of its administration staff is still under way in Belarus. One of the recent presidential edicts abolished

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the Ministry of Construction and Utilization of Highways, the State Committee for Architecture and Construction, and the Ministry of Industrial and Construction Materials. Their functions will be performed by the Ministry of Architecture and Construction.

Legislature Protests Edict on Presidential Administration

WS2608131994 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 23 Aug 94 p 1

[Statement issued by the Belarusian Supreme Soviet press service in Minsk; date not given]

[Text] As has been reported, the president of the Republic of Belarus signed edict No. 19 dated 4 August 1994 "On the Creation of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus."

On 8 August, the Supreme Soviet Presidium examined several provisions of this edict and came to the conclusion that some of its clauses about providing the Supreme Soviet and its structures with financing, social services, materials, and equipment, as well as others regarding the management of Supreme Soviet property, do not correspond to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and the acts of Belarus' highest legislative body.

Supreme Soviet Chairman M. Hryb, speaking on behalf of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, immediately informed the president about this and requested that A. Lukashenka cancel those clauses of the edict which pertain to maintaining the operation of the Supreme Soviet. In the meantime, RESPUBLIKA and other media organs, referring to I. Valenta, head of the legal department of the presidential administration, reported that the edict has been brought in line with current legislative acts by making appropriate changes.

The Supreme Soviet press service states that the Supreme Soviet Presidium, as of 22 August 1994, has received no official answer concerning this question from the presidential administration. This suggests that the statement by the representative of the presidential administration does not correspond to reality.

President Favors Regular Dialogue With Journalists

LD2608164394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 26 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] During his meeting with correspondents of foreign mass media accredited to Minsk, Aleksandr Feduta, leader of the presidential press service, announced about a new order in Aleksandr Lukashenko's [Alyaksandr Lukashenka's] association with the press.

From now on any journalist wishing to interview the president must forward a written request to the press service two weeks before the supposed meeting. The request should contain an approximate list of questions to the president. Within four days Feduta must report about the answer of the head of the state, whether he agrees to converse with the journalists and at what time. As Feduta said, Lukashenko intends to regularly speak over the national television, at least one time in two weeks.

Feduta also reported that meetings with head of the presidential administration Leonid Sinitsyn, who has the status of the head of the government, are to be regulated as well. Sinitsyn has allotted one hour a week to associate with the press. He will devote one hour a week, from 14:00 till 15:00 local time every Friday, to interviews.

Representatives of the presidential administration are expected to hold a briefing every week, and Prime Minister Mikhail Chigir is to stage press conferences every Monday.

According to Feduta, currently the government is developing a draft decree on press which would determine authorities and duties of journalists. "Foreign journalists should have immunity identical to the diplomatic one," Feduta believes. He opposes existence of the Press Ministry in the republic and called it an unnecessary ideological structure. As he said, it would be enough to create a press department under the Culture Ministry to fulfill "this purely technical function."

Data Show 50% of Publications 'Non-State'

WS3008091994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Recently released statistical data on the Belarusian press—on the eve of the first national holiday of Belarusian literature and publishing—have created a rather peculiar image of the press.

Out of 685 periodicals, 503 are newspapers, the remaining—journals and bulletins. A BELINFORM correspondent has learned at the Ministry of Information and Printing that some 50 percent of Belarusian publications are non-state. As for subject matter, one of the most popular topics is economics. Thirty periodicals, both state and non-state, depict the varying directions of economic development in the Republic and other states.

Party for Support of CIS Refused Registration

LD2708170494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] The Justice Ministry of the Republic of Belarus has refused to register the statutes of the Party for Support of the CIS, which held its founding conference on 21 June. As Uladzimir Matveyew, leading specialist at the department for issues of public associations, told a BELINFORM correspondent, the reason was a conflict

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in the submitted documents with the Constitution and the acting legislation of Belarus.

According to Matveyew, the Party for Support of the CIS cannot claim the status of a republican public organization because it did not comply with the temporary regulations on the order for the establishment and functioning of public organizations of citizens in the Republic of Belarus. Specifically, four oblasts and the city of Minsk were not represented at the founding conference in accordance with the regulations.

Moldova

Foreign Ministry Appeals for International Aid

LD2908133094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] August 29 ITAR-TASS—The Moldavian [Moldovan] Foreign Ministry on Monday made an appeal to foreign embassies and international institutes to help the Moldavian people overcome the after effects of a series of major natural disasters.

A hurricane and catastrophic flood have taken away many lives in Moldavia, destroyed the harvest, and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in other damages.

Byelorussia [Belarus] has already responded to the appeal. Minsk is sending a shipment of pre-fabricated apartment buildings to the embattled republic. The Russian Embassy in Moldavia donated one day's worth of wages to the republic's aid fund.

Observers See Debts to Moscow 'Increasing'

AU2908171994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2152 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/8/1994—Moldova uses 70 percent of the shares of the 11 Moldovan wine enterprises located in Russia and 30 percent of the Alfa Television-Sets Plant shares as collateral for the Russian credit of 70 billion rubles, states KOMMERSANT MOLDOVIY. A proportion of 30 percent of the shares of major former military-industrial complex enterprises such as Mezon, Topaz, Signal, Schotmash, Raut, and Intrascop are also used as collateral. Previously, the Moscow newspapers have relayed that Moldova will repay its debts using the assets of its enterprises. Government representatives denied this information adding that Moldova can honor its financial obligations toward the Gazprom company [Russian supplier of natural gas]. Local observers point out that the debts are increasing and that they have already reached the amount of $250 million. To repay its debts, Moldova will use the finances received from the payments for natural gas crossing Moldova; Gazprom has the right to use Moldovan pipelines for exporting 18 billion cubic meters of gas to Western Europe in 1994. The Russia-Europe pipeline has a length of 6,000 kilometers, 100 of which cross Moldova. For each 1,000 cubic meters crossing its territory, Moldova receives $1.5.

Property Rights Agreement Reached With Ukraine

AU2908171794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2152 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/8/1994—The agreement between Moldova and Ukraine regulating the property right will be soon ratified by the Moldovan and Ukrainian Parliaments, stated to the weekly EKONOMICHESKOYE OBOZRENIE Andrei Cucu, deputy minister of privatization and state property administration. "Our ministries will have to draft the necessary documents proving Moldova's right to some properties located in the Ukraine. No significant problems should arise regarding the industrial enterprises, especially the wine ones," says Cucu. According to him, "we reached a mutually advantageous agreement on the enterprises previously subordinated to the Soviet government." Though controversies arose during the talks on vacation houses built by Moldovan organizations, "solutions were found in this regard as well." The buildings constructed by the former Soviet Union trade unions will belong to the Ukraine and those constructed by the Moldovan Trade Unions will pass to Moldova after the presentation of the necessary documents, said Cucu.

Gen Lebed, Grachev Discuss 14th Army's Future

AU2908171294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2152 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 26/8/1994—Sources close to the 14th Army command told BASAPRESS that today at 1100 Moscow time, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed "met with Russian Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev in his study to discuss the fate of the 14th Army." However, there is no information whether Lebed reached or not an agreement with Grachev. It is known that on August 29 an experts' group will arrive in Tiraspol as it was established during the 10th round of Moldovan-Russian negotiations. It will take part in the liquidation of the 14th Army command and will proceed to the reorganization of the 14th Army. According to the same sources, the dialogue between Grachev and Lebed continued this afternoon. This was due to Lebed's hard position on the 14th Army's reorganization and his refusal to be transferred in another Russian region.

Lebed Opposes 14th Army Withdrawal

AU2908132594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 29/8/1994—"Russia continues to be a major power in the Dniester region and tends to offer guarantees regarding the maintenance of peace on its own borders and on borders of its close neighbors as well," declared General Aleksandr Lebed to the newspaper DNESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA. He said that he opposed the withdrawal of Russian military

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forces from Dniester. Commenting on the Moscow military department's offer to command over Tajik peace keeping forces, the 14th Army commander declared that he "can no longer be the one to quench the fire in the hot spots of the former motherland," when "none of the Moscow generals wishes to leave his post for a hot spot." Today, Lebed returned to Tiraspol.

Dniester Forces To Oppose Withdrawal

AU2908140294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 29/8/1994—An official from the Dniester Forces' Command confirmed to BASA the statement made by General Lebed that the Dniester military forces and militia are on alert due to the recent signing of the Moldovan-Russian agreement on the 14th Army's withdrawal. The quoted source stated that all Russian military units are controlled by Dniester military observers and the Dniester military units will oppose the evacuation of Army's equipment and property from Tiraspol. According to him, this evacuation will take place when Russia and Dniester sign a bilateral agreement. Tiraspol representative declared that for the time being there are no signs that the 14th Army units are preparing to withdraw. According to the same source, only seven officers of the 14th Army command of those dismissed due to personnel reductions requested to be employed by the Dniester military units.

Dniester Organizations Support Lebed

AU2908171494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2152 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 26/8/1994—Yesterday evening, the Association of the Afghanistan War Veterans, Women's Union for Defending Dniester, and the Tiraspol Society "Chernobyl" sent Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev a declaration in which they demand that General Lieutenant Aleksandr Lebed be maintained commander of the 14th Army, told BASAPRESS leaders of these organizations. In the declaration they support General Lebed's attitude on "this premature withdrawal of the 14th Army and liquidation of its command." These actions are deemed as strategic and military "shortsightedness" and "criminal." Leaders of the organizations expressed to BASAPRESS their "surprise" that General Lebed is "repudiated by politicians on both sides of the Dniester as well as by the Russian Forces' Superior Command."

Dniester Marks Independence Anniversary

AU2908142694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 29/8/1994—The Supreme Soviet and government of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic issued a congratulation addressing "the Dniester nation" on the anniversary of the August 24, 1991 Declaration of Independence. The document says: "The annulment by the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova (RSSM) of the August 2, 1940 decision on the RSSM's creation is the legal and historic basis for self- determination of the Dniester Moldovan republic." The republic's independence is the necessary condition for statehood, it states. "The Moldovan Dniester republic was created as a democratic state destined to assure equal rights and obligations to people living here, and it does so," goes on the congratulation. It also says that "the republic lives and develops despite problems and hardships, and its leaders are confident about that the nation which survived the war will cope with the difficulties and will manage to develop and consolidate the democratic state."

Snegur Lists Post-Independence Achievements

LD2708152694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1206 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] The chief goal of the republican government is to "ensure in 1994-1995 social and political stability in the country, and by 1996-1997 stabilize the economy and significantly raise living standards," said President Mircea Snegur in an address to the nation broadcast on republican television Friday. The presidential message was devoted to the third anniversary of Moldova's sovereignty, marked on August 27.

Among the major achievements over the years of independence, Snegur referred to significant progress toward democracy, which, in his words, has been recognized by international organizations. He spoke highly of a referendum held last March when the people "confirmed their firm intention to live in an independent unitary and integral state, capable of pursuing policy of neutrality and cooperation with other countries, guarantee equal rights to all citizens, ethnic minorities included." Snegur bitterly criticized the Transdniestrian leadership and assured his compatriots of "firmness and consistence to the end" in relations with that self-proclaimed republic.

He reiterated his cabinet's adherence to social and economic reforms. In his words, IMF and World Bank experts have positively assessed the economic program, worked out by the Moldovan government.

On foreign policy issues, Snegur gave priority to Kishinev's [Chisinau] ties with CIS countries and Rumania [Romania]. He specifically noted that Moldova "fits only in CIS economic environment" and the reasons for its entry in the Commonwealth were purely economic.

New Constitution Marks 'Democratic State'

LD2708170594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] On Saturday—Moldova's Independence Day—the country's new Constitution went into effect.

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It was adopted by the parliament a month ago. Today the fundamental laws of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic approved in 1978 became null and voil.

Under its new Constitution Moldova is a democratic state ruled by law, in which human dignity, human rights and freedoms, free development of the individual, justice and political pluralism are guaranteed as the highest values.

The document proclaims neutrality for Moldova, and states that the deployment of other countries' armed forces on its soil is inadmissible.

The new Constitution provides for the possibility of granting the special status of autonomy to "population centers on the left bank of the Dniester, and to some areas in the south of Moldova" (that is Trans-Dniestria and Gagauzia). The legislative acts concretising the form of such autonomy have to be adopted by three-fifths of the parliament. A majority of parliament members turned down the opposition's call for recognizing Romanian as official language. The Constitution states that the official language is Moldavian.

The Christian Democratic Popular Front and other opposition factions favoring unification with Romania object to the key provisions of Moldova's Constitution. They began to collect signatures to a petition for revising the articles, which, in their view, run counter to the "scientific truth" and limit people's rights and freedoms.

Under the law it's necessary to collect at least 200,000 signatures to raise the issue of revising the Constitution at the parliament. Local observers believe that the opposition can accomplish this task. However, they said, the present line-up of forces in the parliament will hardly allow to obtain a majority required for introducing fundamental amendments to the Constitution.

CDUM To Hold Meetings on Constitution Revision

AU2908161494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 29/8/1994—"The Social Democrats consider that the time for such actions as the voters' meeting convened by the People's Christian Democratic Front (FPCD) Alliance on August 28 in the Great National Assembly Square is irreversibly gone," declared to BASA Oazu Nantoi, Social Democratic leader. Nantoi also said that "one can obtain nothing by these actions." Ion Hadarca, a leader of the United Democratic Congress (CDUM), stated to BASA that the CDUM has submitted a request to the Chisinau Mayor's Office to hold a meeting at the beginning of August, "but later we have arrived to the conclusion that we should not disperse the political forces, but consolidate them." On the other hand, he stated that the CDUM called on all its followers "to participate in all rallies at the end of August." As to the August 28 voters' meeting, which, according to the organizers, is to be held in the Great National Assembly Square, Hadarca declared that "we cannot forbid our followers to participate, though the CDUM is not the organizer of this rally. The essence of my attitude as a deputy is that the deputy has the right to meet with his voters wherever and whenever," added Hadarca.

FPCD Accuses Government of 'Abuse'

AU2908161294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/8/1994—Last night, the Christian Democratic People's Front (FPCD) Alliance made an appeal to the Moldovan leadership which says that "the anti-social and anti-national policy of the governmental coalition of the Agrarian Democratic and Socialist Parties and the 'Unitate-Edinstvo' movement culminated with the adoption of the Constitution that has contradictory, anti-democratic and discriminating provisions." It also states that the FPCD Alliance initiated an act of Constitution's revision by convening a meeting of voters. However, "the Chisinau Mayor's Office made an unlawful decision and refuses to create the necessary conditions for the meeting." At the same time, "the police is being told that the opposition prepares a conspiracy."

According to the appeal, "the Chisinau regime, incapable of accepting the idea of existence of a democratic opposition, prosecutes the FPCD members and followers. Given the situation created before the meeting and being aware that the police could attack the participants in the meeting, we call on the Moldovan leadership to give up the policy of abuse and respect the Constitution and the law on deputy status," states the appeal.

CP on Police Brutality at 24 August Festivities

AU2908143494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 29/8/1994—"The events on August 24 at the Memorial proved that our society favours the solving of many issues by force," says today's declaration by the Moldovan Communist Party (PCM) released to BASA. "We do not have the right to betray those who led us to liberty under the red banner," says the declaration. The declaration poses a rhetorical question: "Who ordered the police to pull out of hands the fighting banners and injure the veterans, creating disorder and spoiling the celebration of many people?" The PCM considers that city authorities and other Moldovan leaders who were to organize the August 24 festivities are guilty for what happened. "We think that those who organized these aggressive acts against the war veterans will be judged one day in the proper manner," points out the declaration.

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Ukrainian Officer Arrested for Arms Traficking

AU2908143394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 29/8/1994—On August 24 night, Mikhail Okopnyy, major of the Ukrainian Border Guards, was detained for illegal weapons traffic near Grimincauti, Briceni district, by the border police of the Briceni Police Commissariate, BASA learned from the Ministry of Interior. Okopnyy was driving a car carrying 4,320 cartridges of 5.45 mm calibre, 460 blank cartridges, 15 Makarov pistols with 800 cartridges enclosed and another 63 signal pistols. Before the arrest, Okopnyy was the head of the Ukrainian border guard troops unit no. 2195. The case is being investigated by the Moldovan Security Minister. Aleksey Kozhukhar, Ukrainian consul to Moldova, stated to BASA that he knows nothing about this case adding that the Moldovan Security Ministry has to notify the Ukrainian Embassy about the alleged weapons traffic. Representatives of the Moldovan Security Minister press service told BASA that they can neither confirm nor deny this information.

Dniester Police Take Steps To Combat Drugs Trade

AU2908181794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/8/1994—Dniester militia is alerted by the increase in the number of crimes stemming from drug abuses and illegal drug trade in Tiraspol and the Rabnita district. To combat these crimes the Tiraspol militia started the operation "Mak-94." As a result of this operation 76 files have been opened and 307 people brought to court. The militiamen destroyed around 20,000 poppy and hemp plants grown by villagers for subsequent processing and selling. According to the militia, the selling and use of chemical substances with narcotic properties has become widespread in Dniester. These substances are brought and sold here by people from Caucasus, Middle Asia as well as Gypsies.

Rabnita Soviet Deputy Chairman Assaulted

AU2908185494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2152 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Rabnita, BASAPRESS, 26/8/1994—As it is already known from reliable sources, on August 24 evening, deputy chairman of the Rabnita District Soviet, Viktor Matushinski, was assaulted by unknown persons on his return home. He was severely beaten and robbed. Matushinski is in the local hospital in a serious condition. The incident is investigated by the Tiraspol Security Service.

Parliamentary Official Outlines Minority Policies

AU2908142494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 29/8/1994—In the conditions when the American juridical "philosophy" dominates, the national-cultural autonomies in Europe are undesired and not normal, states to the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA Vladimir Solonari, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights and National Minorities. He says that Moldova should elaborate its own variant of national-cultural autonomy that would take into account the demographic and linguistic, political and economic realities. The law on national minorities should provide equal rights to all people regardless of race, language, religion and ethnic origin. It should guarantee some specific rights of the national minorities such as the right to speak their native language, preserve their national names, use national insignia, maintain relations with their ethnic metropolis, to associate in cultural organizations and have state's support. Solonari points out that the law should "establish the state's obligations to issue official information in the state language and Russian" and establish the principle of proportional representation of national minorities in state organs.

Union Leader Views Unemployment, Unpaid Salaries

AU2908171694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2152 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/8/1994—"During the negotiations between the trade unions and the government we have to find a way of redressing the situation of the industrial enterprises to resolve the problem of unemployment," stated to BASA Ion Godonoga, chairman of the Independent Trade Unions Federation (FSI). The FSI will also raise the question of immediate elimination of delay in salaries standing at 90 million lei. According to Godonoga, the FSI will contribute to the adoption of a statute of unemployment and intends to create an assistance fund for the unemployed. He said that according to statistics, over 17,000 jobless people are currently registered in Moldova, while their real number exceeds 200,000. Godonoga stated to BASA that he wants to consolidate the FSI "to make it represent a real force". Ion Godonoga, 41, born in Sanatauca, Camenca district, an economist, began to work as engineer at the Chisinau Tractors Plant and was promoted to assembling department chief. In 1987, he began his activity in the trade unions. At the FSI council meeting held on 23 August 1994 he was elected FSI chairman.

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Kyrgyzstan

Goldmining Starts on Sultansary Deposit

LD2708122394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0059 GMT 27 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 27 Aug—Goldmining began today at Kyrgyzstan's very promising Sultansary gold field in Naryn Oblast. The first gold concentrate has already been obtained.

The Sultansary plant has the second largest capacity after the Makmalzoloto combine, which was built back during the Soviet period. It is estimated by specialists of the Kyrgyzaltyn concern that the entry into operation of the new enterprise will raise the republic's production of gold by 20 percent. Over 600 kilograms of the metal will be extracted there.

This plant, situated at an altitude of 3,000 meters, was built in just 10 months. Its planning and all the work were carried out by Kyrgyz specialists. Technology, developed in the USSR, is being used all along the production chain. However the main equipment—extraction centrifuges—were acquired from the Canadian firm (?Knelson). This equipment will make it possible to extract the finest gold and considerably reduce losses. In addition the Knelson centrifuges have made it possible to abandon the use of the toxic reagents that are employed with the Soviet technology at Makmalzoloto. On site at Sultansary the gold concentrate will be brought to a condition suitable for refining. The metal will also be turned into ingots in Kyrgyzstan at the Karabaltinskiy ore-mining combine.

Tajikistan

Russian Border Guard Killed at Border Post

LD3008061394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0554 GMT 30 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe, 30 Aug—At a frontier post of the Pyandzh frontier detachment of the Group of Russian Frontier Forces in Tajikistan, a Russian officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Akhtem Nasibullin, was mortally wounded last night. ITAR-TASS was told this at the press center of the Command of the Group of Russian Frontier Forces.

The circumstances of the tragic incident are being investigated. Details will be transmitted later.

Arabs, Pakistanis Alleged Aid to 'Hardliners'

MM3008100194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Berezko: "Tajik Opposition's 'Arab Card.' Gangs of 'Hard-Liners' Are Becoming International"]

[Text] We were told by the press office of the Russian Federation Federal Border Service that border details in collaboration with detachment reserves isolated, disarmed, and handed over an 18-man group of Pamir gunmen to representatives of Republic of Tajikistan competent organs at 1800 hours 28 August in the Khorog Border Detachment 12th Subunit's sector. There are thought to have been 10 Arabs among them. The bandits were traveling toward Khorog in a KamAZ truck.

Incidentally, a few days before during a conversation with your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Lieutenant Colonel Vasiliy Masyuk, chief of the Moskovskiy Border Detachment, pointed out that the fact that Arabs and Pakistanis are taking part in combat operations on the side of the "hard-liners" is obvious.

Russian border guards averted an attempt to cross the Pyandzh River by a group of opposition gunmen heading into Tajikistan to mine the roads along the State Border 29 August in the Pyandzh Border Detachment 12th Subunit's sector. The bandits came under fire and the target was hit.

On Saturday a Russian border guard post stationed on Turg Hill in the Moskovskiy Border Detachment 12th Subunit's sector was once again bombarded. The subunit itself was also bombarded.

There has been firing from both Afghan territory and by opposition gunmen ensconced in the Tajik border region. Some six rocket projectiles have been launched at the post and the subunit. One was fired at this detachment's 13th Subunit. There have been no losses among Russian border guards.

Election Officer Promises Democratic Elections

LD2908130894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Even with only one candidate, presidential elections in Tajikistan would be democratic, the head of the Central Electoral Commission Kadriddin Giesov told INTERFAX Monday.

There currently are two presidential candidates in the republic: the Parliament's Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov (officially registered) and Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, the former premier and now Tajikistan's Ambassador in Moscow. Elections are scheduled for September 25.

As Giesov explained, if Abdullodzhanov fails to submit all necessary documents to the central election commission and get himself officially registered by August 31, "presidential elections will still be democratic, even though without an alternative choice." "The law on presidential elections does not demand two candidates," he stressed.

He also reported that Abdullodzhanov's papers sent to the Central Electoral Commission by his chief canvasser Khabibullo Oripov on August 25th had disappeared.

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In Giesov's words, a team led by the Central Committee's Executive Secretary Khamrokhon Rasulov has left for Leninabad (a town in the north country where Abdullodzhanov was nominated), will investigate on the spot "the disappearance" of the documents, and "if they are prove valid", Abdullodzhanov "will be registered."

Asked about the possibility of rescheduling the elections and a referendum on a new republican constitution because of the tension in Tajikistan, Giesov said that "it is not within his competence to solve this issue."

Turkmenistan

Cabinet Meeting Amends Argentine Oil Contract

LD3008103394 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers held a meeting yesterday chaired by Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy. Pointing out that the brightest period has begun in the life of peasants, Turkmenbashy said that cotton, which grows after hard work, should be picked quickly and in an organized way. Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy said that there are all kinds of facilities to successfully achieve the production of cotton by the third anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence. He said that duty consists of successfully organizing the cotton harvest and that the aim of efforts should be picking every single cotton-pod in the fields. Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy reiterated that he will assess the work of leaders on the basis of their cotton production.

Turning to preparations for the new academic year in the schools, he explained in detail the tasks facing us in our educational policy. He also said that he will lecture the students on 1 September on such themes as the independence of Turkmenistan and patriotism. Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy also talked about improving the system of education at schools and institutions of higher education and organizing this task to meet the demands of today.

The Cabinet meeting heard reports on the analysis of agreements and contracts signed by the Ministry of Gas and Oil with foreign companies and firms. It was revealed that when previous contracts were signed significant amounts of funds were lost. Irregularities permitted by previous leaders of the Ministry of Gas and Oil in their agreements and contracts with foreign companies were strongly condemned. As a result of this the contract signed with the Bridas company of Argentina was substantially changed and completed. The leaders of this company participated in the examination of this question and the share of income was reviewed before the enterprise was established. It was also agreed that the enterprise named after Keymir should have a representative from Turkmenistan.

A new agreement was signed on cooperation with oil reprocessing works. Turkmenistan's President Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy stressed that when signing contracts with foreign companies we should above all consider the interests of our country and our economy. It was pointed out at the cabinet meeting that no tolerance will be shown to people and especially leaders who speak against the homeland and who are involved in treason. President Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy drew attention to the need to strengthen law and order in the country, and said that an urgent duty lies before leaders in connection with this issue. Many other urgent questions on the economic and political life of our independent country were examined at the cabinet meeting.

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Armenia

Armenia, Karabakh To Merge Monetary Systems

MK3008093894 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 4

[Gamlet Matevosyan report from Yerevan: "An Agreement Between the Central Banks of Armenia and Karabakh"]

[Text] The leaders of the central banks of Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic have signed an interbank agreement on merging their monetary systems and organizing financial settlements between the main banks of the two republics. The sides undertook to pursue a coordinated credit and financial policy and take measures aimed to stabilize the national currency. The Central Bank of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, the agreement says, will be guided in its work by official settlement rates established by the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia. The latter for its part pledges to ensure for Karabakh residents free access to Armenia's currency market.

First Women's Party Registered

NC2908133994 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0600 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Yerevan ("Respublica Armenia" daily), 08/27/94—Conservative-Democratic Party of Women of Armenia ("Haykandukht avandapasht zhoghjvurdakan kusaktsutyun") has been registered in Armenia. According to the Chairman Armenuhi Gazaryan, this is first in the history of Armenia women political party.

The party was created by efforts of seven women, with the main goal of protection of family, its moral and physical health, honor and dignity. Later, the main idea was extended. A. Gazaryan said, their new goal was to excite civil self-realization of their compatriot women.

The party has already called several meetings - on February 23, March 8, May 1 and 9, which, according to the Chairman shows socialist and pro-Russian orientation of the party.

Bishops Council Elects Acting Catholicos

NC2608131694 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0540 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Yerevan ("Azg" daily), 08/26/94—Patriarch of Jerusalem Torgom Archbishop Manukyan was elected as the Acting Catholicos of all Armenians for the coming 6-12 months at the Bishop Council held yesterday in St. Echmiadzin.

"This assignment will only bring me heavy obligations", he declared yesterday late in the evening, when the session of the Council finished.

Voskan Archbishop Galpakyan reported that various opinions about selection of candidates were expressed at the council. Three of the five proposed candidates participated in the second stage, at which Garegin Archbishop Nersisyan collected 16 votes, and Torgom Archbishop Manukyan - 20 votes out of the 38 possible. His main obligation will be preparation of Catholicos elections.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev on Role of CSCE in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2908170794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1456 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 166 (656): Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy: Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Heydar Aliyev said that if they are sent into the Armenian-Azerbaijani war zone, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe's [CSCE] observers must do more than monitor the ceasefire. They could also lay the groundwork for a comprehensive political agreement on Karabakh, he told Jan Eliasson, CSCE Minsk group chairman.

Eliasson expected the observers to have a favorable impact on the situation in the region. He agreed with Aliyev that the ceasefire should not be allowed to perpetuate the existing situation and the next step should be a political resolution of the Karabakh crisis.

Before he met with Aliyev, Eliasson had for three hours conferred with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Eliasson said that both parties in the conflict admit the need to have direct contacts but the negotiation process is slow and there is a certain coolness in the Baku-Yerevan relations. He believed that security of the population in the aftermath of troops withdrawal from occupied lands is a key element of a comprehensive solution. Eliasson said that providing security guarantees is one of the reasons why CSCE observers have to be sent to the war zone.

Meanwhile the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry declared its intention to abide by the ceasefire, which has been in effect since May 12, until a comprehensive political agreement on Karabakh is signed.

A ministry statement says that all Azeri army units have been ordered to comply with the ceasefire and warns of harsh punishment for those who break it.

CSCE's Eliasson Ends Visit to Caucasus

NC2908191394 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] CSCE Minsk Group Chairman Jan Eliasson has ended his visit to the Caucasus. He returned to Baku last night. President Heydar Aliyev received him when he returned. They discussed matters related to the settlement of the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the establishment of peace based on a just solution.

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Kazimirov Appeals to Azerbaijan, Armenia on Talks

NC2908192994 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Azerbaijan and Armenia have received a written appeal from Vladimir Kazimirov, President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy on the Daghlyk-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] dispute. In the letters he conveyed to Baku and Yerevan, Kazimirov said that Azerbaijan and Armenia must make an effort to conclude their talks so that the signing of a political agreement will be possible without loss of time.

In a statement to the TASS NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Azerbaijan, Vefa Gulizade, state adviser on foreign policy, said that the talks will resume in Moscow at the end of September.

Ex-State Secretary Against Russian, CSCE Roles

MK2708101794 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report in the "Azerbaijan" column]

[Text] "The Karabakh problem can be resolved only if the Azerbaijan government firmly decides to renounce Russian mediation as the only such possible." This was announced by Ali Kerimov, former state secretary, currently a leader of the People's Front. At the same time he described talks outside the CSCE framework and conservation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict as "a lesser evil."

Ali Kerimov stressed that a party interested in thwarting the contracts between Azerbaijan and a consortium of western oil companies being signed could hinder stabiliity in the region. He described destabilization as an effective lever to impact on the signing of oil contracts.

At the same time, in a special interview for Russian media Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said that if Russia does not participate in addressing the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, peace will be impossible to achieve. "This is what the West thinks and this is what my special message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin says," Demirel stressed. He also noted that there is no point for Turkey to have its own conflict resolution plan. It was pointed out that in dealing with the Karabakh problem, the opinion of Russia, Great Britain, and the United States should be taken into account.

Aliyev Reviews Border Security Agreement

944K2218A Baku GUNAY in Russian 24 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The President of Azerbaijan and the Commander of Border Forces of Russia Have Discussed a Draft Agreement on Cooperation in the Guarding of the Border"]

[Text] A draft Agreement on Cooperation Between Azerbaijan and Russia in the Sphere of Protection of the External Borders of the Commonwealth was discussed at a meeting between Heydar Aliyev, president of the republic, and Andrey Nikolayev, leader of the Federal Border Service and commander in chief of border forces of the Russian Federation.

In the course of the discussion A. Nikolayev observed that without cooperation with Azerbaijan, it would be impossible to ensure Russia's security on its southern borders. He expressed the hope that the president of the republic would approve the basic principles of the document that had been prepared by the parties, after which it would be possible to work on individual amendments and proposals in order that Boris Yeltsin and Heydar Aliyev might sign the agreement at the October meeting of heads of state of the CIS. In turn, H. Aliyev declared that the policy of the development of all-around relations with Russia that had been adopted by the republic would remain invariable. But he observed with regret that there were in both states forces attempting to counter this process. Henceforward the meeting was held behind closed doors.

As a correspondent of the KHABAR-SERVIS Agency learned, the parties discussed, inter alia, the section of the Azerbaijani-Iranian border captured by Armenian troops.

Aleksandr Suvorov, press spokesman for the commander of the Russian border forces, responded in the negative to a question of the correspondent of the KHABAR-SERVIS Agency as to whether the draft agreement made provision for the guarding of the Azerbaijani-Iranian border in conjunction with Russia. He emphasized that the bilateral cooperation would concern the training of Azerbaijani border guards and the provision of the republic with the corresponding equipment for fitting out the border. "It is possible that individual military experts of Russia will be present in the region as consultants," A. Suvorov said.

Arrested Armenian Special Service Agent Interviewed

NC2608195694 Baku TURAN in English 1732 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, August 26 (TURAN)—Yesterday in the Security Ministry of Azerbaijan a press-conference was held with Igor Khatkovski, the Armenian special service agent.

Khatkovski had been arrested on August 6, 1993 at Baku's railway station preventing his attempt to put a detonating fuse into the passenger train.

Farhad Tagizade, the head of the counter-intelligence department of the Security Ministry of Azerbaijan told to journalists that in the course of investigation Khatkovski confessed that he had been recruited by the Armenian special service in the territory of Russia and in February, 1993 had been sent to Azerbaijan with the aim

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to arrange terrorist actions in the transportation, in economical places and in public.

He said that he had been recruited by Jan Ohanesyan, the top-ranking collaborator of the State Department of National Security office of Armenia (former KGB). In the first stage of his activity he had been ordered by Ohanesyan to penetrate into the territory of Azerbaijan in order to gather information of intelligence kind, including the information about the political figures, about the tendency of the internal policy, economy, the charters of the public transportation, arrangement of the charters and so on.

He confessed that he had been trained by Ohanesyan in Yerevan and then periodically had been visited to Armenia to receive an instruction and new tasks and then through the territory of Russia had been sent to Azerbaijan in the capacity of correspondent or a commercial employee. He also confessed that he had performed a number of diversion actions and explosions. In particular the detonating fuses put by him were exploded in the territory of Dagestan. He also had put a detonating fuse in the train of Baku's railway station.

According to Khatkovski he had fulfilled the tasks so that people might damaged less than ordered because he had understood that he was joined to the criminals and therefore was seeking a moment to surrender to the law organs of Azerbaijan.

"Ohanesyan had persuaded me that these explosions were necessary for the destabilization of the political situation in Azerbaijan" he said.

He also notified that he had been ordered to explode the gas pipeline collector not far from Baku, however he destroyed this plan.

Tagizade said that after Khatkovski had been revealed the Ministry of National Security of Azerbaijan received an information by the federal service of the counter-intelligence of Russia about Armenia had its intelligence agency branch against Azerbaijan in the territory of Russia. In particular, it was informed that Ashot Galayan and the other intelligence collaborators of Armenian nationality working at the State Intelligence Department of Russia trained with Khatkovski.

Tagizade noted that the Federal Service of Counter-Intelligence reacted that these men were the collaborators of the special service of Russia working for Armenia and they were arrested.

Tagizade noted that the competent organs of Azerbaijan intend to ask Russia to give those persons to Azerbaijan, so they committed crimes against Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan also intends to defy the International opinion on a question about Armenian terrorist actions against Azerbaijan which are arranged in Yerevan in the level of the state policy.

According to the Security Ministry of Azerbaijan in the result of the terrorists actions in the territory of Azerbaijan during six years the wounded and died persons are totalling over 3,000.

Igor Khatkovski was born in 1957. Byelarusian. Lived in Kaliningrad region of Russia.

Aliyev Briefing on Crime Fighting Results

944K2218B Baku GUNAY in Russian 24 August 94 p 1

[KHABAR-SERVIS report: "The First Results of Realization of the Edict on Stepping Up the Fight Against Crime Have Been Discussed"]

[Text] The first results of realization of the edict "On Measures To Step Up the Fight Against Crime and To Strengthen Legality and Law and Order" were discussed at a meeting of leaders of the law enforcement authorities with G. Aliyev, president of the republic, on 22 August.

Opening the meeting, the president once again recalled the importance of the edict and the need for regular discussion of the results of the work being performed in this sphere and the coordination of the activity of the law enforcement authorities, and also the particular importance of the intensification of the fight against crime, against serious manifestations of it, in particular.

Prosecutor General Ali Omarov, Minister of Internal Affairs Ramil Usubov, Minister of National Security Nariman Imanov, Minister of Justice Ilyas Ismaylov, and others who spoke at the meeting observed that the edict had been received by the public with approval and had brought about a stimulation of the activity of the law enforcement authorities. Thus, whereas earlier the serious crime solution rate constituted 62 percent, as of the start of realization of the edict, this indicator had risen to 82 percent. As a result of the work that has been performed, 70 persons under investigation for having committed serious crimes have been arrested and 500 deserters have been caught and sent for continued service. Eighty percent of serious crimes committed in the past 10 days have been solved.

The meeting was summed up by G. Aliyev. He announced that meetings at the office of the president of the republic would be held twice a month to discuss the progress of realization of the edict.

Import Duty on Computers, Food Lifted

944K2218C Baku GUNAY in Russian 24 Aug 94 p 1

[Untitled KHABAR-SERVIS report on abolition of customs duty]

[Text] Customs duty on imports into Azerbaijan of computers and many types of foods has been abolished. Announcing this, Rafael Rzayev, first deputy chairman of the Customs Committee of the republic, emphasized that customs legislation is increasingly beginning to take

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account of Azerbaijan's real requirements and at the same time to protect local manufacturers against the expansion of foreign consumer merchandise constituting competition for domestic commodities.

This applies primarily to strategic commodities and raw material. For example, commodities exported per a government commission or sold for foreign currency paid into the Common Currency Fund of the republic are exempt from export customs duty. This applies, in particular, to oil and petroleum products.

Georgia

Sarishvili: 'Real Danger of Another Civil War'

MM3008092794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Aug 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Mikhail Dolidze: "Georgia: Barricades? They Are Not Ruled Out"]

[Text] Tbilisi—Political life in Georgia as a whole will have livened up by September, when parliament resumes its activity. Politicians' predictions for the fall vary. Irina Sarishvili, leader of the influential National Democratic Party parliamentary faction, is acknowledged in Tbilisi to be an intelligent, shrewd politician, which is borne out by her invariably high rating.

Irina Sarishvili invited journalists, including your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent, to share her views of the current political situation and her forecasts for the future.

According to her, there is a real danger in Georgia of another civil war. In particular, the radical opposition is naming October as the month for a revolutionary change of power. First, mafia structures may join the radical opposition against Eduard Shevardnadze. The Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs has now stepped up its actions against them. It is absolutely essential to hope for an appropriate response, Sarishvili stressed. At the same time, according to her, the main reason for confrontation could be that Shevardnadze is not needed here by very many people in Russia since he "will never be Russia's man and where possible he prefers a Western orientation." But Shevardnadze is very passive today, Sarishvili said with regret. Irina Sarishvili named Georgian Parliament Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze among those who are now playing for a different team but are at the same time expertly creating an image of Shevardnadze the man. She said that he constantly supports the radical opposition by his political moves. In particular, Sarishvili described as provocative and speculative the fact that the speaker recently visited the radical oppositionist Irakliy Tsereteli, leader of the National Independence Party, who is on hunger strike. In her view, when the session resumes the National Democrats will undoubtedly raise the question of replacing the speaker, an "ideological saboteur" on whom certain outside forces can count when organizing confrontations.

Shevardnadze must take radical steps, first and foremost totally reorganize the cabinet of ministers—the government of reactionaries which is destroying the country—structurally and in terms of personnel. Our relations with the head of state are complex, Sarishvili said. We will never join the radical opposition. The ideal scenario for us is cooperation with Shevardnadze in implementing radical reforms. But his resignation would only increase the chaos. The powerful National Democratic Party is currently holding talks with Eduard Shevardnadze's party—the Union of Citizens—and the opposition united republic party. Possibilities of government reform are being discussed. But, as Sarishvili said, it has not proved possible to reach a compromise.

In one way or another the fall does not bode well in Georgian political life. To what extent could there be a repeat of the events of a year ago? Then, we would remind you, Shevardnadze resigned 14 September but then changed his mind. Today Georgia's mass media are circulating a statement by Tsereteli, in which the latter claims that his main task is to secure Shevardnadze's resignation. Admittedly, at the moment Tsereteli is promising to secure this peacefully although he does not rule out the appearance of barricades on the streets of Tbilisi in the fall.

Extra Russian Contingent Arrives in Abkhazia

LD2908170494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1538 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By TASS correspondent—GIA]

[Text] Tbilisi, 29 Aug—An extra contingent of Russian peacemaking troops—a battalion of volunteer servicemen from the Urals Military District—arrived in Abkhazia on 29 August, the Georgian GIA news agency reported. Five hundred and sixty Russian soldiers are stationed in the Kodori gorge with military hardware. The battalion's headquarters will be located in the village of Azhara.

Efforts Continue To Settle Abkhazia Crisis

LD2908163394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 29 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—The situation remains tense in Abkhazia's Kodor Gorge, where the Georgian troops are still deployed. The command of the peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia plans measures aimed at Georgian troop pullout from the gorge, ITAR-TASS was told by the press service of Abkhazia's envoy in Russia. The peacekeeping forces are now repairing an exploded bridge in order to move further into the gorge.

The return of the Georgian refugees still remains a problem. "The talks on the refugee return are in a stalemate," the leader of the Abkhazian delegation to the

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quadripartite refugee return commission, Leonid Lakerbai, thinks. Lakerbai said the refugees' coming home is a political rather than a humanitarian problem which directly relates to political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

If the refugees talks continue in Sochi on September 6, a regular round of the talks on political settlement with the participation of Abkhazia, Georgia, Russia and the United Nations will start in Geneva as early as on August 31.

Nadibaidze, Ioseliani Visit Ajar Leader Abashidze

LD2808161194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Georgian Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze and member of parliament Jaba Ioseliani [chief Georgian negotiator at Abkhaz talks] arrived in Batumi yesterday. The guests were met by the chairman of the Supreme Council of Ajaria, Aslan Abashidze. The Georgian defense minister returned to Tbilisi yesterday, while Jaba Ioseliani and Aslan Abashidze continued their meeting at the Supreme Council.

Georgia Assures Safe Transit of Armenian Aid

LD3008100594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The CONTACT news agency has provided us information from the press service of the Cabinet of Ministers stating that today, 30 August, Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia and Deputy Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili received Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Gagik Shakhbazyan; Levon Khachatryan, the Armenian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia; and Samvel Stepanyan, deputy minister of foodstuff and procurements. The discussion dealt with the transportation to Armenia of humanitarian supplies from Poti and Batumi seaports in the winter period.

Otar Patsatsia assured the guests that our railways and seaports will be fully mobilized so as to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches its destination without hindrance.

Shevardnadze Denies Interfering in Chechnya

LD2908161194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Weekly interview with President Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani—live or recorded]

[Text] [Oniani] Batono Eduard, the return of 28 Georgian families to Gali, which became possible on 27 August, is the first step in the overall return of refugees. Practically no positive results have been reached at the quadripartite talks in Sochi. Ms Albright, U.S. permanent representative in the United Nations and a member of the Security Council, is shortly arriving in Georgia. A little later Butrus-Ghali himself is arriving. Although the Abkhazian issue has always been in the center of UN attention, you have repeatedly said that Russia is playing a decisive role in the settlement of the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict.

[Eduard Shevardnadze] Thank you and welcome. Since the deployment of the Russian troops in the security zone in Gali and Zugdidi rayons was completed, the possibility and necessity have arisen of taking further steps in securing the return of the refugees. I recently said that our patience was approaching its limits. Today, the refugees, the great majority of the Georgian population and the authorities have a faith in Russia. We believe that the most serious commitments Russia has undertaken as regards Georgia, Russia itself, and the world will certainly be met. God forbid that our hopes are disappointed. This would gravely affect not only the Abkhazian issue. Disappointment leads to instability. This cannot be permitted to occur.

As for the possibility of the refugees' returning to Abkhazia en masse, I should say that I am grateful to tens of thousands of refugees who, so far, have abided by our request not to undertake extreme measures and actions. However, we should not rule out that obedience to the authorities cannot be unlimited.

[Oniani] A need arose to deploy an additional contingent of Russian troops in Georgia, namely in certain areas of Abkhazia. There are political forces alleging that this has been done deliberately and as an exponent of Russian interests; you let Russia use the Georgian territory to overthrow the legitimate authorities in Chechnya. They also say that Georgia can be made a gendarme in the North Caucasus.

[Shevardnadze] Not to put it any worse, I would like to say that these are naive statements. We have never interfered in the affairs of Chechnya and never will.

[Oniani] Despite the fact that Chechnya interfered in our affairs. At least in Abkhazia.

[Shevardnadze] That is what I wanted to say. We will not interfere in their affairs, although thousands of Chechen militants fought against Georgians in Abkhazia and are responsible for thosands of lost lives. Some of them reached even Senaki and [words indistinct]. Georgia has always had friendly relations with all republics, including the Chechen Republic as well as all other republics of the Russian Federation. This is stipulated by the Russo-Georgian friendship and cooperation treaty. The fate of the present Chechen authorities completely depends on the will of the Chechen people. Not a single Georgian carrying out instructions from the Georgian government can be found in the territory of Chechnya. This is ruled out. Georgia will never undertake the role of a gendarme.

As for serving interests, I serve only Georgia's interests. It should not be surprising that Georgia's and Russia's

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interests agree rather than differ. Primarily because Russia does not want to have an unstable neighbor in the region which is very sensitive for the Russian state. There is nothing wrong in this wish. This is the way all states striving for peaceful life of their population act.

[Oniani] Your decree on the program of complex measures to be taken in preparation for the 1994-95 winter season was issued last week. A meeting organized by the United Republican Party and the Republican faction of the parliament was held last Saturday, investments being its main topic. The same topic predominated during your meeting with representatives of the European Bank when the issue of a $35-40 million credit for the Georgian energy system was considered. The IMF and the World Bank demand that we implement the IMF recommendations. Some officials have stated that the coming winter will be even harder than the last one. Surprisingly, these statements are made by officials whose professional duty is to secure a relatively comfortable winter for the population. Their posts are not hereditary, are they? If one fails to carry out his duties, he must resign, must he not?

[Shevardnadze] I believe that it is possible to secure a relatively normal life during winter if we use all our resources and the aid we are receiving from our friends from various countries of the world. We can also accumulate appropriate reserves which will allow us to handle this problem successfully. I am often puzzled by some officials speaking on TV about the hard situation and I feel that many of them want to wash their hands of responsibilities. I have said that the supervising team, which was set up in the government, will work up proposals and suggestions not only to secure order in the banking and energy systems but also to appraise the work of certain officials and to take—without unnecessay debates—appropriate decisions concerning those who fail to carry out their duties properly. I would like to say that we have to sack officials like this and even ask the law-enforcement bodies to hand down an adequate opinion about them.

As for the IMF and the World Bank, we must implement their recommendations. There is no other way. This is not only with regard to winter. I will soon issue a decree aimed at bringing salaries into line with prices. The situation in this sphere must be improved. Willfully set prices and willfully determined salaries, which are absolutely ungrounded, have led to the present low living standards. Unless we properly correlate these, the life of the population will further deteriorate. I want the population of Georgia to know that we will not be able to overcome the economic crisis without settling this problem. I can say that the existing economic system contradicts all economic laws and especially market economy laws. It is high time to settle this issue properly because we have already acquired sufficient experience. That is why we have to take that necessary though difficult step. There is no other way out.

I would like to warn the population that this is not going to be easy, but if we mean reforms, market economy, and eventual prosperity, we have to overcome one of the most difficult stages of our development.

[Oniani] Despite the critical situation and hardships, interesting events keep occurring in the cultural sphere of Georgia. There was even a remarkable coincidence yesterday. Along with celebrating St. Mary's day, Kutaisi citizens held a festival imbued with a spirit of Georgia's unity. The day before yesterday, a memorial to St. Nino was unveiled at the entrance to Tbilisi.

[Shevardnadze] I would like to say a couple of words about this. The erection of a monument to St. Nino is not accidental. This is a symbol of a U-turn from godlessness and unbelief to Christian values; from hatred, violence and envy to the good and love. Only this sort of U-turn can save the people and the country. As for the initiative of the Kutaisi citizens, I have signed a special decree pertaining to their experiment. This is how I demonstrated the state's attitude toward the way Kutaisi citizens are implementing reforms. They do everything that can be done in a single town. The decree is supposed to herald the beginning of more large-scale reforms throughout Georgia.

In this connection I would like to express my regret over yesterday's TV programs [words indistinct], I mean news programs. We saw all sorts of horror and misfortune. All this is true. However, not a single slot was found for those bright events that took place recently. I know what explanation will follow. They will say that they are preparing recordings and will soon show these bright minutes. But I would like to remind you that all these celebrations started on 25 August, and on the final day all regions of Georgia were represented here. A fair was held yesterday and this was the fair that could be held only in a period of well-being. I do not want it to be taken painfully, but I have to say that television cannot be much nicer than our life is. But I think if anything good is happening anywhere, we have to notice it and show it to the people. Simply to stir up hope for the future. Along with shortcomings television, radio, and press, which indeed serve Georgia and its population, should cover all good deeds and achievements.

[Oniani] Thank you. You have listened to the chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze.

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Estonia

Last Train Carrying Russian Military Equipment Departs

LD2908211594 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] At 1655 hours, the last train carrying Russian military equipment crossed the Estonian-Russian temporary control line from Estonia into Russia. This last train consisted of 55 cars; 20 of them were closed freight cars, 33 were open platforms, and two were passenger cars. The train is carrying the equipment and assets of the Russian 144th Motorized Rifle Division, as well as some Russian servicemen's personal automobiles.

BNS was told at the Orava customs post that the train waited at Orava for over two hours before leaving Estonia. According to Estonian customs officials, these last Russian servicemen to leave took whatever they could lay their hands on in Estonia. Namely, they picked some cabbages from a field near the station and put them in the rail cars while the train was waiting. According to the customs officials, the former Estonian SSR state flag was flying from a train window as a gesture.

The majority of the Russian servicemen have already left Estonia. There are about 20 Russian officers and non-commissioned officers in the Harjumaa district, who are about to hand over the last military installations in Estonia in the next couple of days.

Justice Minister Says Russian Accords 'Discordant'

WS3008091494 Tallinn BNS in English 1810 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 29, BNS—The Estonian Justice Minister Urmas Arumae said at a session of the parliamentary foreign commission Monday that the July 26 Estonian-Russian accords are discordant with Estonian laws, member of the committee Juri Toomepuu told BNS.

Toomepuu quoted Arumae as saying that his viewpoints were personal, because he had not yet seen the official documents on the legality of the accords, since the said accords were still unsigned by the Russian president.

Toomepuu said Arumae had quoted a number of paragraphs from the Estonian Constitution and other laws which he said were in discord with the agreements. Arumae said the Estonian Government had not discussed the agreement texts before they were signed. This kind of discussion, however, is required by the Estonian foreign communication law. The government had only examined the Paldiski reactors' dismantling agreement, Toomepuu quoted Arumae as saying.

"The legality of the other two accords was clearly denied by Arumae," said Toomepuu. "Arumae said in his speech to the commission that it was customary to check the legality of agreements before signing them, and not after," Toomepuu added. Arumae had also said it was absurd that the agreements did not fix the date until which the Russian Army could pension off its military still in Estonia, Toomepuu quoted. He said Arumae had concluded by reminding the commission that persons who had signed agreements contradictory to Estonian laws could be held responsible for it.

Introduction of Russian Tariffs Blamed for Export Drop

WS3008091394 Tallinn BNS in English 1810 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 29, BNS—The customs statistics show that Estonia's agricultural products' import in July exceeded export by 83.6 million kroons, while in the first six months of 1994, export had exceeded import by 107 million kroons.

Russia set up customs tariffs on food products and other imported goods in July. Estonia does not have privileges in trade with Russia, which results in tariffs two times higher than for other European countries.

As against June, Estonia's export of agricultural products dropped by 167 million kroons in July. The export of meat and fish products lessened by 73.1 million kroons, of cocoa and cocoa products, by 22.8 million kroons, and export of fish, by 22 million kroons. Export to Russia shrank by 147.6 million kroons.

Although the part made up by agricultural products in the whole of export has dropped in July (18.4 percent of the gross export, against the 25.3 percent in June), it still holds the leading position among other product groups.

Customs statistics say the decline in Estonian export (by 342 million kroons as against June), was mainly caused by the drop in agricultural products' export.

The biggest Estonian banks (the Hansa Bank and the Bank of Estonia) have said the messed-up trade relations with Russia are a result of shortcomings in the country's foreign trade politics.

Officials Note 'Problems' With Grain Harvest

WS3008091194 Tallinn ETA in English 0722 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From 30 August HOMMIKULEHT, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 167/94]

[Text] Tuesday, August 30—Several officials have given their opinions on this year's grain harvest. Agriculture Ministry Department Head Vaino Liiman is of the opinion that the grain produce will be only a little less this year and the damage by drought not extensive. Ago Soots from the State Grain Supply is convinced that the expected grain produce will be twice less than the amount in last year. He predicted the rye harvest to be approximately between 20-40 tons per hectare. He said that together with the available rye reserve it could be

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enough, if used sensibly. Liiman admitted that the are problems with the quality of the grain. He also informed that Estonia has to buy 55,000 tons of wheat in addition to its own produce.

Police Discover Uranium Cache, Arrest Smuggler

BR2908130994 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 27 Aug 94 p 8

[Flemming Rose report: "Estonian Wanted To Smuggle Uranium to West"]

[Text] Tallinn—Last week the Estonian police arrested a man who was apparently planning to smuggle three kg of uranium into Western Europe. The authorities in the small Baltic republic suspect that it was not an isolated incident.

The Estonian authorities fear that their small Baltic republic is on the way to becoming a main thoroughfare for nuclear material smuggled out of Russia.

Yesterday, the Estonian police revealed that last week they arrested a person who buried three kg of uranium 238 in the ground beneath his garage. The confiscated uranium was supposed to be smuggled further into Western Europe.

"We suspect that this is not an isolated incident. The investigation is continuing, and we cannot say any more for the time being," Vice-Chancellor Juri Ruus at the Estonian Interior Ministry told BERLINGSKE TIDENDE.

Russian Supplier

Ruus claims that the nuclear material was smuggled into Estonia by two Russian citizens who then delivered it to an Estonian. The man in question was arrested in his home in Polva, a town close to the Russian-Estonian border. A second official said that the material was supposed to be smuggled on into Western Europe. The nuclear material was concealed in 590 small containers measuring 10 by eight mm.

The confiscated uranium cannot be used to manufacture atomic bombs. The degree of enrichment was no higher than 2 to 3 percent, whereas a level of 97 percent is required before it can be used for bomb production.

The Estonian police said that they received a tip-off from the Russian authorities that some uranium had been stolen from a Russian military plant, and that it was bound for Estonia.

The unmasking of the Estonian nuclear smuggler comes after the confiscation of four smuggled consignments of nuclear material by the German authorities over the last few months.

Last week, Germany and Russia signed a cooperation agreement in an attempt to put a stop to the smuggling of nuclear material. German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has said that he will probably raise the problem at next month's meeting of the EU Council of Foreign Ministers.

Latvia

President Asks Maris Gailis To Form New Government

LD2908140194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis today asked Maris Gailis, the Latvian Way association's candidate for prime minister, to form a new government.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the Cabinet of Ministers consists of a prime minister and ministers whom he invites and [words indistinct] of the Cabinet of Ministers is formed by a person who is instructed to do so by the state president. An endorsement by the Saeima is necessary for the prime minister and ministers to be able to take up their posts. They are accountable to the Saeima for their activity.

Ulmanis Interviewed on New Government

LD2908162494

[Editorial report] Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian at 1300 GMT on 29 August broadcasts a 3-minute interview with President Guntis Ulmanis. An unidentified announcer begins the item by saying that State President Guntis Ulmanis has instructed Maris Gailis of Latvian Way to form a new Latvian government. This is followed by an interview with President Guntis Ulmanis recorded by Latvian radio correspondent Ainars Asaks.

Ulmanis says: "Talking today with a new candidate for prime minister, we discussed in general outlines the government program which could be drawn up under Mr. Gailis' direction, and also touched on the issue of personalities a little.

"Talking and acting together, we have to ensure that the parliament's vote is positive and that this government is approved. I now have great expectations that this government could also be approved. I draw this from the large number of parties and factions with whom talks are currently being held. Also, Mr. Gailis is willing to form a more stable basis for a coalition, and also a basis for the program, highlighting practical work.

"He asked that he be able to discuss this government on 15 September and I agreed to that. Of course, it is completely clear that personalities in the Cabinet of Ministers will change considerably. We feel it from [words indistinct]. I also understood after today's talks that much will be different from how it has been before."

Asaks says that the new government will have to learn from the previous government. In order for the reforms to be implemented, President Guntis Ulmanis also gave some personal advice to Maris Gailis. He says:

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"We talked quite a lot about the criminal situation and the power structures—the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, and the Home Guard. We talked about issues related to promises and their fulfilment, and we also talked about how the three institutions—parliament, the president, and the government—accept the load of responsibility; not in such a way that sometimes each pulls to his own side or one against the other, but that all three will pull simultaneously with mutual coordination.

"We touched on agricultural policy a little, on its importance for the Latvian state, and of course we talked a lot about relations with Russia. I still believe that the fact that there has been no meeting between the Russian and Latvian Governments is a mistake made by both sides, and I want Mr. Gailis to work actively in this direction so that talks are held between the Russian and Latvian governments on economic issues."

Christian Democrats Decide Against Joining New Government

WS3008082994 Tallinn BNS in English 1810 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Riga, Aug 29, BNS—The Latvian Christian Democratic Union faction on Monday decided against joining the Latvia's Way government, faction chairwoman Aida Predele told BNS.

The party leadership drafted requirements for Latvia's Way to get the faction support during the parliamentary vote but Predele said she was not informed about them. "The decision not to participate in the Latvia's Way government in fact means that the faction would give it the vote of no confidence," Predele said.

Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD3008093894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Baroness Margaretha af Ugglas arrived in Riga this morning on a special flight from Stockholm to meet Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis and Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs. The head of the Swedish Foreign Ministry will also meet Aleksandrs Kirsteins, chairman of the Saeima Foreign Affairs Commission, and members of the commission.

In the afternoon at Riga airport, af Ugglas will briefly meet Latvian legionaries who recently visited Sweden at her invitation.

One of the central topics for talks during af Ugglas's visit will be Swedish participation in tackling issues related to the withdrawal of the Russian Army.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Praises Low Turnout in Referendum

LD2908220194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has spoke with approval of the Lithuanian people. In his regular interview on national radio this Monday, President Algirdas Brazauskas said that he would like to emphasize the resistance of the Lithuanian citizens and the voters against populist demagogues. Our people deserve words of praise for such state-conscious mature thinking—this is how the president of the country assessed the low turnout of the citizens at the referendum on indexation of devalued savings and illicit privatization which was held last Saturday. [passage omitted]

Algirdas Brazauskas said on Lithuanian radio that he could hardly imagine what would have happened if the referendum had taken place [as heard] and the law adopted. According to the president the problems raised at the referendum exist in real life, however, the results indicate that the popularity of institutions of the current government, their influence and responsibility have once again been confirmed.

According to the president, conclusions should be now drawn from the issues raised, and the criticisms voiced at discussions held before the referendum should not be rejected. However, all the opportunist and demagogic manifestations do not do credit to the initiators of the referendum. [passage omitted]

Seimas Chairman on Referendum Results

LD2908182894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Interview with Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] I think that a new week brings new ideas, and it also brings new feelings if this is true.

[Jursenas] That is correct. On the eve of the extraordinary Seimas session that I have officially convened on the proposal by members of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, I must say that I begin the week under the influence of last week, i.e. the referendum that we know may be considered as failed.

I regard this as a victory for Lithuania. This is a victory of common sense. What I mean to say is that people did not rise to the bait, which looked very attractive and which later turned out to be fiction. [passage omitted]

However, hundreds of thousands of people did vote in favor of some conceptual points in the law presented for the referendum. This is a matter of concern to me, as it previously was a concern upon hearing statements by not only thousands but also even by one single person raising a legitimate issue. [passage omitted]

I would like to tell listeners that the Lithuanian authorities are aware of the problems; therefore, we are prepared to solve these problems as far as possible and as far as our financial and economic possibilities will allow us. [passage omitted]

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I would like to say that, although we are happy that the referendum failed, nevertheless, we think that the problems that have been raised and presented for the referendum must be solved. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What events of significance in the sphere of politics and the economy are expected this week?

[Jursenas] I think that in the political sphere this would be the visit of Mr. Weiss, chairman of the Israeli parliament, the Israeli Knesset. This is the first visit by an official of this rank, and we regard the visit as extremely important to our mutual relations. [passage omitted]

Slezevicius Receives Israeli Knesset Chairman

LD2908164194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1200 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Mr Shevakh Weiss, chairman of the Israeli parliament, was received today by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys. Shevakh Weiss also met Professor Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the right-wing parliamentary opposition, and other members of the Lithuanian Seimas.

Today, Mr. Shevakh Weiss and his wife will visit Paneriai, the place where tens of thousands of Jews perished during the years of Fascist genocide. Tonight a dinner will be hosted by Ceslovas Jursenas, chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas, in honor of the high- ranking guest.

Yesterday, Mr. Weiss and Ceslovas Jursenas met representatives from the Jewish community of Lithuania.

A visit on Tuesday to Seirijai in the South of Lithuania has been included in the Israeli chairman's schedule. He will lay a wreath at the monument to the victims of the genocide. His wife Estera Weiss comes from this area, and her parents and relatives are buried there.

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